FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONCLUDES MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS

JN031952 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 3 April--The PLO Executive Committee meetings, which began yesterday under Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, ended here this evening. A study was held on the results of the Arab foreign and economy ministers meetings, which ended in Baghdad on Saturday, and on current developments in the Arab arena in light of the treasonous agreement signed on 26 March by Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat and the Zionist enemy.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed several financial and administrative matters and the special reports on the occupied land. Suitable decisions were made in this respect.

In another development, the PLO called on its Central Council members to hold a meeting on Saturday. The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY reports that the Central Council will discuss new developments pertaining to the Palestinian issue and the results of the Arab foreign and economy ministers meeting, which ended in Baghdad last Saturday.

OAPEC MINISTERIAL MEETING PROPOSED FOR 9 APRIL

LD041010 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0731 GMT 4 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--The secretary general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, OAPEC, Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, stated here today that he proposed the convening of an emergency ministerial meeting of the organization this Monday to discuss Iraq's demand to suspend Egypt's membership in the organization after it signed the peace treaty with Israel. Dr 'Atiqah told KUNA that OAPEC, with Kuwait as its headquarters and with a membership of 10, had received a cable from Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim demanding an emergency meeting of the Ministerial Council of the organization to discuss the subject of suspending Egypt's membership. He said that OAPEC communicated this demand to the member states and that a meeting has been proposed for 9 April. Dr 'Atiqah went on to add that the organization now is waiting for the approval of the member states of these proposals.

OPERATIONS AGAINST EGYPTIAN REGIME REPORTEDLY PLANNED

LD041010 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A Kuwaiti paper today reports that Palestinian and opposition Egyptian groups are preparing to carry out military operations against the regime of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat for signing the peace treaty with Israel. In a dispatch from Beirut, AL-WATAN says that some detachments of the Palestinian resistance "are leaning toward--are even working and planning to deal specific blows at As-Sadat's regime and its establishments."

The paper then quotes political sources as saying: "What is new in this matter is that Egyptian organizations and forces have begun to prepare themselves for a new type of struggle against As-Sadat's regime." The paper writes: "Egyptian quarters concerned with this form of political struggle actually have begun to train groups of Egyptian national youth in special military commando actions." The paper does not say where the training is taking place or what types of operations are planned. However, it quotes the same political sources as saying that these operations will be confined to Egypt.

PLO WARNS WEST AGAINST SUPPORTING U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

ID031447 Hamburg DPA in German 1252 GMT 3 Apr 79 ID

[Text] Bonn--The PLO has urged the FRG Government and the West European states not to ally themselves with U.S. Middle East policy. Commenting on the results of the Arab summit in Baghdad, PLO representative at the League of Arab States in Bonn Abdallah Frangi said that this would not only not be a contribution to peace but would harm their own security. If war in the Middle East caused the oil sources and transport routes to no longer "function correctly," Europe would also be affected because of its considerable "interdependence" with the Middle East.

Frangi said that the Israeli-Egyptian agreement bears within itself the germs of a new war. The PLO has, "together with the Arab brothers," taken measures for defense of its rights surrendered by President Anwar as-Sadat. Frangi expects a new "confrontation Front" against Israel, in which Egypt would be "replaced" by Syria, Iraq and also Iran. He said this would take at most 2 years.

VOP CALLS ON ARABS TO CONFRONT THE UNITED STATES

JN031436 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1100 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] We call on our Arab brothers to determine their stand against the Arab nation's principal enemy, the United States of America. We call on them to confront this enemy. In so doing, we are not placing these brothers face to face with a miracle that cannot be fulfilled, nor are we facing the Arab nation with a challenge that it cannot bear or shoulder. We are facing them with the truth, free of illusions. The truth is that there is no path but confrontation. Confrontation is imposed by the United States, through its continuous conspiracies against the Arab nation. It is sought by the United States, with its light and humiliating treatment of the Arab nation, including its imposition of a capitulatory agreement rejected by all Arabs. The United States has shifted from the peace agreement to a more progressive line of enmity, suppression and control by planning a Zionist-Egyptian military pact to suppress the people of this region.

The only option open to the Arabs is to confront the United States. It is the only option for those who say that they reject surrender and capitulation. The Arabs must take this option. They have a good opportunity to triumph if they liberate themselves from the U.S. complex and its powers; if they are objective enough to realize that it is possible to defeat the United States. This has been proven a number of times; consider the Vietnamese and Iranian incidents, for example. But most apparent is the Palestinian issue.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO TITO, OTHER LEADERS

JN040612 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine In Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 4 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar received the Yugoslav ambassador in Beirut last night and handed him a message addressed to President Tito. The message deals with the serious consequences of the deal of treason between Carter, Begin and As-Sadat.

Our correspondent has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar has sent similar messages to all socialist and nonalined leaders.

PLO APPOINTS NEW REPRESENTATIVE IN AMMAN

JN031345 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Well-informed Palestinian sources in Amman today said that the PLO has decided to appoint a new director to its Amman office. The new director, Hazim (al-Quryun), was in the PLO Cairo office.

SIX-MEMBER ARAB COMMITTEE MEETS IN CAIRO 3 APR

JN031520 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1505 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Cairo, 3 April--The six-member committee created at the recent Baghdad Arab foreign and economy ministers conference held a meeting here today. The committee comprises representatives of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Tunisia, Kuwait, Syria and the UAE, which is acting on behalf of Algeria.

Discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by the acting Arab League secretary general, were measures for transferring the Arab League headquarters to Tunis and the dates of the league's future meetings.

In another development, As'ad al-As'ad, the Arab League's acting secretary general, met with At-Tayyib al-Khudayri, director of the Arab Labor Organization, and with Kamal Nurallah, director of the Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences. During the meeting, discussion involved a number of topics connected with implementing the latest Baghdad conference resolutions on Arab League-affiliated organizations.

ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO CONVENE IN RABAT EARLY MAY

LD011724 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Mr Qasim Zuhayri, deputy secretary general of the Political Department of the Islamic League, said that, given the recent development of events in the Middle East and the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, it has been decided to convene the 10th conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers in Rabat early in May 1979, to discuss all the aspects of the present situation in the Middle East.

In an interview published today by the paper AL-JAZIRAH, he said that a specified position will emerge from the Islamic states' foreign ministers conference regarding this question, at the level of the Islamic world. He also stressed that the Islamic League Jerusalem Commission will meet on 20 April 1979 to look into a number of issues, and in particular will discuss the current situation in the Middle East, the developments in the region, and the various moves of the General Secretariat of the league on the international level.

SAUDI ARABIA

DIE PRESSE INTERVIEWS YAMANI ON OIL PRICES

For Austrian interview with Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani during his visit to Vienna, see the Austria section of the 3 April Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

UAE

OFFICIAL ON CONTINUATION OF UAE-EGYPTIAN SERVICES

JN031410 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 April--Muhammad Sa'id al-Mulla, minister of communication, in a statement published in today's issue of the AL-ITTIHAD daily, said: Nothing will change regarding communication services between the UAE and Egypt. These services will continue regularly and will not be changed or influenced by the boycott resolutions imposed on Egypt by the Arab foreign and economy ministers.

Director of Gulf Airlines also told the AL-ITTIHAD correspondent that Gulf Airlines' planes will continue to offer their services. He said that Egypt Air Company is a national company working within the framework of the international aviation and tourism agency and therefore has nothing to do with politics.

The deputy director of the Cairo Bank in Abu Dhabi also asserted that the bank will continue to offer its various services. This bank is a national banking institution and does not deal with Israel. It operates in the UAE under the direct supervision of the Monetary Council.

On the other hand, AL-ITTIHAD daily explained that officials of the Boycott of Israel Office have not yet received new instructions in connection with the Baghdad Arab ministers' meeting and resolutions. However, it is most likely that the boycott will be imposed on any Egyptian company or institution that utilizes Israeli capital or financial aid. It will be also imposed on all persons who carry passports with an Israeli stamp, which proves they visit Israel.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH DISCUSSES UNITY WITH PDRY, U.S. ARMS

LD031455 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Mar 79 p 20 LD

[Interview given by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM correspondent in Kuwait--date not given]

[Text] [Question] Can we say following your meeting with PDRY Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il that the war between the two parts of Yemen has ended once and for all?

[Answer] Yemen is one country and one people. There is no difference between the north and the south. This is evident from the fact that tens of thousands of our brothers from the southern part live in the north like northern citizens; they have the same rights as those of northern citizens. What happened between the two parts of the country has saddened our hearts but it is something that happens among brothers of the same family. It is true that we did not start the fighting nor did we wish for the situation to deteriorate or to resort to arms. We were defending ourselves. But following the intervention of our Arab brothers represented in the Arab League and thanks to the efforts of his highness the ruler of Kuwait, we have turned the page of the past and opened a new page in relations with our brothers in the south.

We hope that, with good will on both sides, we will be able to achieve the goals and aspirations of our people in both parts of the country.

[Question] Is immediate unity possible?

[Answer] We in the YAR are seeking unity, not only the unity of both parts of Yemen but also of all the Arab nation from the Atlantic to the gulf. Our Yemeni people tend toward unity by nature. But in order to prevent a setback or failure in unity and to be an example for the unity of the Arabian Peninsula states and, consequently, for a comprehensive Arab unity, we must build the edifice of this unity step by step on a sound and solid basis. We believe that the Cairo and Tripoli agreements have laid down the practical steps for the desired unity. It will be on this basis that we can proceed toward unity.

[Question] You have carried out an extensive Cabinet reshuffle and changes in the military command. Were there political reasons for these changes?

[Answer] Cabinet changes are customary in all democratic regimes. The main reason is to bring new skills into ministries so that they will be able to achieve success in fields where change has taken place. The change has been carried out in consultation with Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and has been dictated by the circumstances through which our country is passing.

With regard to the military changes, they also are something normal. We have constantly raised the slogan: "The Army is For War and Construction." We will not abolish this slogan. While we are building our armed forces so as to be able to defend the revolution and the republic, we are also anxious to see that these forces will contribute to building the country and to progress from the era of backwardness to that of renaissance.

[Question] There has been much talk about U.S. arms deals and U.S. advisers to be sent to North Yemen. Some people regard this as a change in YAR policy. What is your opinion of this and would you please clarify this subject?

[Answer] Regarding the U.S. arms deal I would like--without going into detail--to make it clear first that the deal has been the subject of discussion for 4 years and, second, that it has nothing to do with the armed conflict between the two parts of Yemen. We deal with the United States in the same way we do with the Soviet Union--on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs.

[Question] The YAR took part in the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference in Baghdad. Does this mean that you condemn the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty?

[Answer] Some people have tried to distort the fact that the YAR participated in the ninth Arab summit and was represented by a large delegation headed by the vice president of the republic. I, as a president, was busy dealing with the aftermath of the abortive coup. What has been said about our delegation expressing reservations regarding the resolutions adopted by the Arab kings and presidents is not true.

We are for Arab unanimity and against anything that may divide the Arab ranks. With regard to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, we have already said and say again that it does not achieve just and lasting peace and that the peace we desire is one that will achieve total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and insure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to return and to establish an independent Palestinian state on their own soil. We will abide by the Baghdad summit resolutions and by everything that the Arab brothers may agree upon. We will continue to give support to our Palestinian brothers.

[Question] What is your impression of your brief visit to Kuwait?

[Answer] In fact, I cannot find adequate words to express my happiness for being here among my brothers. The efforts of His Highness Brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah and his sponsorship of the meeting between brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and myself is highly appreciated by us. This is not surprising since the Kuwaiti people, represented in the As-Sabah family, have always been the first to do good, unite the Arab ranks and defend the causes of peace and justice. I have invited his highness the amir to visit his second country, Yemen, and I hope that his time and responsibilities will enable him to do so. I once again wish to thank the Kuwaiti amir, Government and people for their welcome and hospitality and for the assistance they give to our country.

AS-SADAT, BEGIN HOLD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAIRO

NC031145 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 April--President as-Sadat has stated that he has agreed with the Israeli prime minister on future steps and that great future steps have been adopted.

He said this at the press conference which he and Begin held after the discussions at Al-Qubbah today. The following is the text of the statements:

Question: What are the results of today's discussions?

As-Sadat: We have agreed on the future steps. Our discussions lasted only 50 minutes, but we managed to adopt future steps. I will let Prime Minister Menahem Begin talk now.

Question: Do the future steps concern self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

As-Sadat: Certainly, because we spoke about the two ministerial committees in Israel and Cairo which will prepare for this directly after the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the treaty, which we hope will take place next week.

As-Sadat then asked Menahem Begin to speak.

Speaking to the reporters, Menahem Begin said: We agreed on many things during our discussions:

1. We agreed that after the Egyptian People's Assembly debates and approves the treaty on Sunday or Monday, Dr Butrus Ghali will go to Jerusalem with the instruments of ratification. Our foreign minister, Moshe Dayan, will visit Cairo next Monday or Tuesday, bringing with him our instruments of ratification.

Begin added that the treaty will become effective after the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

2. We have reached agreement on Al-'Arish. Al-'Arish will be restored to Egyptian sovereignty on 26 May. In response to an invitation by President as-Sadat, I will visit the president in Al-'Arish on 27 May. The borders will then be declared open. We will then go by helicopter to Beersheba and then return again to Al-'Arish to establish the air corridor between Cairo and Ben-Gurion Airport.

Begin added: One month after the exchange of instruments of ratification, the Egyptian ministerial committee and the Israeli ministerial committee will begin periodic meetings in Beersheba and Al-'Arish, following its return to Egyptian sovereignty, to begin the discussions on the question of self-rule.

Menahem Begin said at the press conference that the first meeting will be in Beersheba and the second will be in Al-'Arish. An Israeli minister will chair the committee when it meets in Beersheba, and an Egyptian minister will chair it when the committee meets in Al-'Arish. This will also apply to the military committee, and the defense ministers of the two countries will alternate.

Addressing reporters, Begin said: As you can see, we have achieved real progress in our talks with President as-Sadat. President as-Sadat has promised more progress through direct contacts in the future.

He added: We have decided to set an example for others, in that we have ended the state of war which prevailed for a long time and we have achieved peace. Furthermore, we have established relations of friendship and neighborliness.

Answering a question about the date of Israeli Defense Minister Weizman's visit to Cairo, the Israeli prime minister said: Weizman will visit Cairo after Dayan visits Cairo. I believe it may take place next Tuesday. He will meet with the Egyptian defense minister to discuss military affairs.

Asked how he and Mr Begin will keep in contact, President as-Sadat said: We have agreed to have direct contacts, because the time has come for such contacts. I have asked the Israeli prime minister to convey to Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin my best wishes and my invitation to visit Egypt.

Asked about his feelings regarding the progress in talks held today with Israeli Premier Begin, President as-Sadat said he was more than satisfied, adding: We even thought of contacting U.S. President Jimmy Carter, but we found that the Egyptian local time was not suitable as it was 5 a.m. in the States. However, President as-Sadat said, we will both contact him in the afternoon.

An Israeli journalist then addressed President as-Sadat in Arabic, telling him that in his book "Search for Identity" President as-Sadat spoke of psychological feelings and his hopes while in the cell during 1954. Do you see that these hopes were now realized after the signing of the peace treaty?

The president said: Certainly I can say that signing the agreement was one of the happiest moments in my life, as I said in my speech in the United States.

I was brought up in the village. I detest hate and favor love. We are now beginning our sound course along which we will completely renounce hatred and open our way with love.

Answering another question in Arabic regarding the future of relations between Egypt and the Arab states, particularly Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the president said: I hope this subject will not disturb you. What is happening now happened before following the first and second disengagement, after my initiative, after Camp David and after the treaty. I would prefer to leave this subject since I will discuss it at the Egyptian People's Assembly Thursday.

The newsmen asked the president to repeat his answer in English, which he did.

At the end of the press conference, Menahem Begin expressed his pleasure with the hospitality and reception accorded to him in Egypt.

Begin Departure

NC031412 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 April--Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and his delegation left Cairo for Israel at 1600 today at the conclusion of his visit to Cairo, which began yesterday.

The Israeli prime minister and his wife were seen off by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife. He was also seen off by the Egyptian honorary delegation which escorted him during his 28-hour visit to Cairo under Minister of Justice Ahmad Musa.

The Israeli prime minister was also seen off be senior state and military officials, including Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the National Democratic Party.

The Israeli prime minister shook hands with his well-wishers at the airport. A boy and girl then presented bouquets of flowers to Mr Begin and his wife.

The Israeli prime minister reviewed the honor guard lined up at the airport. After the conclusion of the official farewell ceremonies, the Israeli prime minister waved to his well-wishers from the upper steps of the ramp. He entered the plane, which then took off, concluding the first visit by an Israeli prime minister to Cairo.

PAPERS DISCUSS AS-SADAT-BEGIN TALKS, U.S. NUCLEAR PLANT

NC040850 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Apr 79 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Commenting on the discussions between President as-Sadat and Menahem Begin, AL-AKHBAR today says: The round of discussions which took place between President Anwar as-Sadat and Menahem Begin yesterday indicates a new spirit in tendency and thinking. The discussions, which lasted no more than 50 minutes, proved to be active and fruitful. President as-Sadat said: During the discussions we agreed on the future steps.

The paper says: The new spirit which prevailed at this short round of discussions, resulting in this much achievement on the future steps, has eliminated the fears that the discussions on the implementation of the peace treaty would follow the same stumbling method as those on ths signing of the peace treaty. There is strong hope now that the discussions on the implementation will follow a clear course to achieve their aims by the shortest route. The peace treaty would thus constitute the cornerstone, as President as-Sadat put it, for the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace realizing the hopes of the peoples and stabilizing security in the area.

AL-AKHBAR expresses hope that Menahem Begin left Cairo for Israel yesterday fully convinced of this new trend and that clear understanding and frank talk produce better results than the methods of crookedness and labyrinths, which only result in wasted time and efforts.

The paper adds: Let us hope that Begin's visit to Cairo has proved to him that work for peace must be serious and that the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the area is a fact dictated by existing conditions in the Middle East and confirmed by international conditions and the spirit of our age.

The paper then explains that signing a peace treaty is not everything; what is more important is implementing the peace treaty and translating its provisions into actual deeds.

Under the title "The Conditions for a Comprehensive Settlement," AL-JUMHURIYAH today refers to the statement by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin that the peace treaty with Egypt is the first step toward a comprehensive settlement of all conflicts in the area and that he is determined that no more calamities should befall the youth in Egypt or Israel as a result of wars. The paper says: These are nice words. It would be beautiful if Menahem Begin would prove in practice that he means what he says, because a comprehensive settlement of all conflicts in the area requires recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. If these people do not attain their full rights, they could become a source of continuous threat to peace in the area.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: We believe that it has never been more necessary for Israel to show good intentions in its dealings, particularly with the Palestinians. Egypt has been able to remove the barrier of hatred and rancor between itself and Israel, but Israel itself has made no positive initiative to remove this barrier with the Palestinians.

In conclusion, the paper says: Israel's good intentions toward Egypt regarding the implementation of the peace treaty might have an effect on Egypt itself, but good intentions toward the Palestinians and the other parties concerned can build the edifice of a comprehensive and durable peace in the entire area.

Regarding the possibility of danger as a result of the incident at the Three Mile Island nuclear powerplant in Pennsylvania, the papers report that Dr Harold Denton, the senior expert in the federal department that supervises nuclear activities in the United States, has stated that the likelihood of danger as a result of the incident at the nuclear plant in Pennsylvania has largely receded and that the situation is under the full control of the experts who supervised the prevention of certain nuclear disaster by succeeding in dismantling the huge gas bubble which obstructed the cooling system inside the reactor.

CAIRO SOURCES DENY KHALIL TO RESIGN AS PRIME MINISTER

NC031514 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[By Georges Herbouze]

[Text] Cairo, April 3 (AFP)--Sources close to Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil today denied reports that Mr. Khalil planned to resign and that he and President Anwar as-Sadat were in disagreement.

The sources acknowledged, however, that Mr. Khalil had decided to boycott the visit to Cairo of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The boycott was for various reasons, some of them personal, the sources said. But President as-Sadat had never considered firing Mr. Khalil because of his decision, they added.

Mr. Khalil reportedly considered it a personal affront when Mr. Begin refused to take part in a U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian summit in Washington unless Mr. as-Sadat represented Egypt. Mr. Khalil was upset by such a demand from a man he considered to be his Israeli counterpart.

The Egyptian premier also did not appreciate last-minute Israeli bargaining over the evacuation of the Sinai oil wells under the Israeli-Egyptian treaty. He especially considered that Mr. Begin's attitude augured ill for the future of Israeli-Egyptian relations, the sources indicated.

In Mr Khalil's view, the Begin visit to Cairo was premature and could only add to problems given the current Arab situation. In announcing his boycott decision, Mr Khalil reportedly told Mr. as-Sadat that the Israeli premier's "tactlessness knows no bounds".

His absence today from talks at Al-Qubbah Palace was meanwhile attributed to "health reasons". Mr. Khalil was scheduled to meet Mr. as-Sadat tomorrow, however, and it is he who is to present the Israeli-Egyptian treaty to the Egyptian parliament at the weekend.

Despite the sources' assurances on relations between the Egyptian president and prime minister, it was not clear how Mr. Khalil could continue to act as a negotiator, in his capacity as foreign minister, given his attitude. Mr. Khalil may, however, give up the Foreign Ministry in the future as holding the two posts is unusual in Egypt. He was given the additional portfolio in order to strengthen his hand at the Camp David talks, in Mr. as-Sadat's mind.

Immediate negotiations will in any case be conducted at a lower level, with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali due to travel to Israel next week.

MENA REPORTS AS-SADAT TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH CARTER

NC032107 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2057 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 April--A telephone conversation took place tonight between President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

During the conversation, which went on for a long time, the discussions dealt with the results of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's visit to Cairo and the steps that are to be taken during the coming phase within the framework of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The discussions also dealt with the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-AHRAM ON U.S.-ISRAELI MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

LD031254 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Mar 79 p 7 LD

[Ahmad Bahjat article: "What Understanding Is This"]

[Text] The Egyptian papers yesterday published the texts of the two memorandums which Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil sent to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The two memorandums are two documents regarding Egypt's views on the understanding agreement between the United States and Israel. Dr Khalil said the agreement can be construed as a U.S.-Israeli alliance against Egypt and is therefore a source of great anxiety to Egypt. The Egyptian prime minister was informed of the agreement at 1400 on 25 March; that is, exactly 24 hours before the signing of the peace treaty.

In addition to the two memorandums, the Egyptian papers also published the text of the understanding agreement. In fact, a reading of the understanding agreement definitely established that the special relationship between the United States and Israel has ceased, only to be turned into a legal status similar to a Catholic marriage in which there is no divorce. This relationship has turned into rights, privileges and duties, all of which are aimed against Egypt.

Under this agreement, the United States undertakes to help Israel militarily, economically and politically in the event of any violation of the agreement. This help goes as far as strengthening the U.S. presence in the area. In other words, the United States itself will fight. The help also provides for the use of the veto at the United Nations against any measure that may countereffect the peace treaty. The agreement also promises to meet Israel's demands for military and economic aid and commits the United States to supplying Israel with oil for 15 years in cast it is unable to obtain oil for itself. The agreement also guarantees to help Israel in shipping the oil; if Israel is unable to find the means to ship the oil, the United States will ship it for her. Briefly, this is the essence of the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel.

Dr Mustafa Khalil's answer to the agreement was clear and firm. He said: "The content of the agreement is based on unfounded accusations against Egypt and paves the way for measures to be taken against it in a hypothetical situation, the determination of which is largely left to Israel."

He also said: The memorandum of understanding assumes that Egypt will be the one to violate the treaty and draws all its conclusions on the basis of this hypothesis. He added: The memorandum gives the United States the right to impose its military presence in the area for reasons stemming from an agreement between Israel and the United States alone, something which is unacceptable.

Dr Khalil said that the proposed memorandum uses such dangerously vague terms as threats of violation of the agreement against which certain measures would be taken. We consider this to be a matter of grave consequence.

Mr Mustafa Khalil said the memorandum casts many doubts on U.S. true intentions, especially regarding the peace process.

In his second memorandum the Egyptian prime minister replied with a 16-point statement. Concluding, he said that the Egyptian Government does not recognize the legality of this [U.S.-Israeli] memorandum and considers it null and void.

This stand merits extreme respect, for it fully expresses the Egyptian people's viewpoint.

CAIRO RADIO REPORTS AS-SADAT INTERVIEW WITH STERN

NC032034 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has announced that the real test of the peace treaty signed recently between Egypt and Israel will be the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy which will begin within 1 month.

In an interview with the West German magazine STERN, President as-Sadat said that, with patience and persistence, he was able to conclude the peace treaty, and that he will demonstrate the same patience and persistence in the coming negotiations.

The president spoke about the aid Egypt expects to get from the Western states, especially the FRG, for the reconstruction of Egypt. He said that he discussed this matter with Chancellor Schmidt and that Egypt will prepare a working paper outlining the Egyptian ideas regarding such aid. The president added that he does not want any loans.

The president called on German investors to participate in building Egypt, adding that Egypt will guarantee their freedom to transfer their share of the profits at any time. He called on these investors to help Egypt in the field of food production. He said: Our soil in Egypt is among the most fertile in the world and we have water and an excellent climate.

The president said he rejected the idea of giving Egypt U.S. military guarantees similar to the guarantees given by President Carter to Israel, saying that this could, under certain circumstances, lead to a U.S. military presence.

Answering a question about the possibility of a Libyan attack on Egypt, President as-Sadat said he does not fear the Libyans. But what is worrying is East Germany, which is helping Libya and (?driving) its tanks on Moscow's orders.

The president accused the Soviet Union of driving a wedge between Northern Yemen and Southern Yemen and of trying now to drive a wedge between Ethiopia and Sudan.

The president said that Sudan has borders with Egypt and that he will not hesitate to fight if the Nile water is threatened.

Asked about Egypt's isolation from the Arab states after the signing of the peace treaty, the president said: We must wait 6 months, after which everything will change in the area. He added: The Arab friends have been very emotional, but this must not be viewed very seriously.

MENA: ARAB LEAGUE EMPLOYEES SAY BAGHDAD RESOLUTIONS ILLEGAL

NC031625 Cairo MENA in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, April 3 (MENA)--The Arab League employees in an open dialogue held here today asserted that the Egyptian rejection of the Baghdad conference resolution to move the Arab League headquarters and its specialised organisations comes in accordance with Egypt's basic role to promote and safeguard the Arab action.

The employees asserted anew that the Baghdad resolutions were illegal and do not abide by the Arab League's Charter and principles, adding that the transferring of the Arab League does not in any sense serve the Arab League's aims.

They further said that moving the Arab League will only turn it to an arena for outbiddings.

Meanwhile, well-informed sources at the league said that though the league does not constitute an authority over the Arab governments, the Arab League must not adopt resolutions passed by some Arab governments in the league's absence.

The same sources added that it was time that the Arab League surmounts the spate of political conflicts among the league's member states.

AMMAN AR-RA'Y ON ARMED ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION IN EGYPT

JN020856 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Apr 79 pp 1, 15 JN

[Text] Cairo--The Egyptian authorities have arrested leaders of an armed religious organization led by a student from Asyut University named Naji 'Abdallah. This organization was recently discovered and is called the New Muslims.

Security reports referred to the Egyptian president affirm that this group is more extreme than any other religious group. This group takes instructions from the Khomeyni movement. The aim of this group is to establish an Islamic republic, to expel foreigners from Egypt and to cooperate with the Islamic movements of the world. Reports stress that thousands of young men have joined this religious organization. Secret cells have placed bombs in the Hilton and Mena House hotels. President As-Sadat personally is supervising the search for this organization's members. He has ordered large-scale transfers among army officers who are known to sympathize with this group. He has also pensioned off 200 officers.

QNA: 12 MEMBERS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OPPOSE TREATY

NC031945 Doha QNA in Arabic 1919 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 April--Twelve members of the Egyptian People's Assembly held a press conference today at which they declared their opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The press conference, which was held at the office of lawyer Mumtaz Nassar, an independent member of the People's Assembly, was attended by National Rally Party Secretary Khalid Muhyi ad-Din and a number of independent deputies, including Mahmud al-Qadi and Kamal Ahmad, a Nasirite.

The assembly members distributed a statement to newsmen attacking the treaty and saying that it does not realize Arab demands. The members said that they would seek to create a front composed of various political currents of the leftist National Rally, the Nasirites, the independents and the Muslim Brotherhood to oppose the treaty.

Meanwhile, Egyptian security authorities have arrested several members of the Rally Party, including Abu al-'Aizz al-Hariri, former deputy for the party, who has been deprived of his membership for 18 months so far in accordance with a People's Assembly decision. Those arrested have been charged with forming a communist cell in Al-Mahallah al-Kubra under the guise of the Rally Party and with circulating leaflets against the state and the regime. The security authorities said that the former deputy was distributing a statement by the Rally Party which opposes the treaty and advocates opposition to it among the masses.

KHALIL CABLES CONGRATULATIONS TO IRAN'S BAZARGAN

NC031930 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text of Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil's cable to Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan--read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran: On the occasion of the announcement of the results of the referendum in which the fraternal people of Iran confirmed, by an overwhelming majority, their support for the declaration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I am happy to express to you, from the land of the holy Al-Azhar and on behalf of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and myself, our sincerest congratulations. While announcing its recognition of the fraternal Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt assures you that it will as always be interested in strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two fraternal peoples in various fields. This interest stems from the firm historic and Islamic ties between them. I send my best wishes.

[Signed] Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mustafa Khalil.

IRAQ BEGINS IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF EGYPT

JN031415 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 April--The Trade Ministry's Economic Boycott Department has begun to compile the names of all Egyptian firms, in order to keep an eye on them in the future and to place those that deal with Zionist firms on the blacklist.

A Trade Ministry source said today that these names will be circulated among all Iraqi firms and establishments to enable the application of the boycott regulations against them. The source added that these names will also be sent to the Arab Boycott of Israel Bureau in Damascus, so that they may be circulated in other countries.

The ministry source added that the Trade Ministry's Boycott Department will do its best to implement the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference resolutions agains the As-Sadat regime as quickly as possible, following As-Sadat's signing of the conspiratorial agreement with the Zionist enemy.

IRAQ CALLS FOR SUSPENSION OF EGYPT FROM OAPEC

JN031140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 3 April--Iraq has called for the suspension of the As-Sadat regime's membership in the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference.

The Iraqi Oil Ministry sent a message today to OAPEC Secretary General Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, calling for an extraordinary ministerial meeting of OAPEC to adopt a resolution to suspend the As-Sadat regime's membership in OAPEC.

In similar messages the Iraqi Oil Ministry called for the convening of extraordinary meetings of the general assemblies and boards of directors of the Arab Maritime Company for the Transport of Oil, the Arab Company for Oil Investments, and the Arab Company for Oil Services, in order to suspend the As-Sadat regime's membership in these companies, which are subsidiaries of OAPEC.

OAPEC was founded on 9 January 1968, and its headquarters are in Kuwait. The 10 Arab countries that are members of OAPEC are Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, Qatar, Algeria, Libya, Syria and Egypt.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS SOVIET ARMS AIRLIFT TO IRAQ

NC241757 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] International military sources in Beirut have disclosed the presence of an air bridge between Moscow and Baghdad, across which an average of two Soviet Antonov-12 aircraft per day are carrying light and heavy sophisticated arms to Baghdad. These sources said that a plane carrying Soviet experts preceded the arms airlift. The experts will supervise the assembly of the arms and give the necessary explanations to Iraqi officers, who were trained in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet military airlift of arms to Baghdad parallels Soviet diplomatic moves in Damascus by Foreign Minister Gromyko, who unexpectedly arrived in Damascus aboard a special plane which crossed Lebanese airspace this morning.

SOVIET ECONOMY OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN021809 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 2 April--The Soviet delegation to the ninth periodic meeting of the Iraqi-Soviet Permanent Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation arrived in Baghdad today. The delegation is headed by Vladimir Fedorovich Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is also the deputy chairman of the Soviet side in the committee.

In a statement to INA, Mr Mordvinov said that the committee will hold discussions for 2 weeks on the means of promoting bilateral economic cooperation in the common interest of the Soviet and Iraqi people. He expressed the hope that ties of bilateral cooperation and friendship will be further strengthened as a result of the committee meetings.

Economic, Technical Meeting

JN031234 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 April--The preparatory meetings for the ninth periodic meeting of the Iraqi-Soviet Permanent Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation began here today. The Iraqi side is led by Subhi Yasin, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and deputy chairman of the Iraqi side to the committee, and the Soviet side is led by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is also the deputy chairman of the Soviet side to the committee.

It was decided to set up seven committees for energy, industry, oil, irrigation, agriculture, (?services) and drafting resolutions. It was also decided to form two teams, one to discuss heavy industry and the other to discuss transport. It is hoped that the committees will complete their work this Friday.

The Iraqi side also includes representatives of the ministries of planning, agriculture and agrarian reform, irrigation, oil and transport. A number of heads of Soviet organizations for oil, irrigation, planning, energy and industry are also attending the periodic meeting.

PALESTINIAN LEADER LEAVES BAGHDAD FOR TRIPOLI

JN040759 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 4 April--'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front, left Baghdad this morning for Tripoli to participate in the expanded meeting of the Palestinian resistance groups due to begin there today.

During the weeklong meeting, the conferees will complete the discussions begun at their latest meeting in Baghdad. They will discuss confronting the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat schemes and taking action to find the best ways to confront the traitor As-Sadat regime and the humiliating capitulatory treaty As-Sadat signed with the Zionist enemy.

JORDANIAN UNIONS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO BOYCOTT U.S. GOODS

JN041007 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 4 Apr 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 4 April--Jordanian trade unions have decided to call on the citizens to boycott U.S. goods in answer to the U.S. stand, which is hostile to Arab issues and aspirations.

A resolution was adopted at a meeting of union leaders last night saying that the practical answer to the Camp David plot and the series of U.S. conspiracies against the Arab nation would be to boycott U.S. goods and products not only in Jordan, but throughout the entire Arab homeland.

It has been decided to form a special committee made up of representatives of various trade unions to launch a constant information campaign to urge the citizens to boycott these products, which constitute the backbone of the U.S. economy.

AR-RA'Y COMMENTS ON BEGIN'S VISIT TO CAIRO

JN020901 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Apr 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In their editorials today, the Jordanian papers comment on the visit to Cairo by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Under the headline "Begin and Humiliating the Egyptian People," AR-RA'Y says: Today Begin and the leaders of the Zionist terrorist organizations accompanying him enter the capital of Al-Mu'izz Lidin Il-Lah [10th century Islamic leader], which As-Sadat has turned into a theater of comedy, where Israeli tourists are having fun.

To commemorate this historic event in the history of the Egyptian regime, a decision was issued to form a tripartite committee to liquidate what remains of the Palestinian issue in accordance with what was mentioned about the Palestinians in the Camp David Psalms or the hints in the linkage paper attached to the separate reconciliation treaty.

AR-RA'Y says: Begin enters Cairo as a conquerer to submit to as-Sadat, his Nobel Prize partner, an integrated program on the method of dealing with each other from now on, particularly now that the Arab nation has completely isolated the As-Sadat regime.

What we fear most is that the leaders of the ruling Egyptian regime may approach Begin to pay homage submissively as their great believer leader has done.

In conclusion, AR-RA'Y says: Egypt's history is long and eventful. Begin must read in the faces of those who will receive him the feelings that have been strangled since the October War when As-Sadat turned the victorious war of liberation into a war to achieve a separate peace with Israel.

Begin, Egypt's history is long and eventful. It does not begin today and will not end with the end of your visit, no matter how much As-Sadat is trying to distort the march of the great Egyptian people.

ISLAMIC CONGRESS IN AMMAN DENOUNCES PEACE TREATY

JN021131 Amman JNA in Arabid 0930 GMT 2 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 2 April--The General Islamic Congress of Jerusalem met in Amman last night to discuss the current situation, particularly concerning the question of Jerusalem. Kamil Ash-Sharif, minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places and chairman of the Executive Office of the Islamic Congress, made a statement. He reviewed the resolutions and recommendations of the conference of the ministers of Awqaf, Islamic affairs and holy places held in Mecca recently to discuss the question of Jerusalem.

The conferees studied the current situation in the wake of the signing of the bilateral treaty between Egypt and Israel and issued a statement denouncing the treaty.

The statement said that the treaty was a stab to the Arab and Islamic nations. At this stage the Palestine question requires serious action to strengthen Arab-Islamic relations between the countries and peoples so that the Islamic and Arab countries will play a role as confrontation countries.

The statement praised the stand of the Islamic Iranian Republic and its support for the Arab cause, its declaration as a confrontation state and its support for Arab rights.

The statement called on the Islamic countries to take action to enlighten the Islamic people about the issue of Jerusalem and the holy places. It called on them to further increase their support for the Arab question in international forums.

VOL REPORTS DEFENSE MINISTER KHURI'S RESIGNATION

NC041229 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 4 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended at 1410. The prime minister came out to announce that Defense Minister Gen Victor Khuri has resigned from the Cabinet.

The official report on the Cabinet meeting is still being prepared. We will give you the details as soon as we get them.

SPEAKER AL-AS'AD CALLS FOR UNIFIED ARAB STRATEGY

NC031830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Excerpts] The foreign, defense, finance and economy committees of the Chamber of Deputies held a joint meeting today under Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, Defense and Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri and Finance Minister Farid Rufayil. Prime Minister al-Huss and Foreign Minister Butrus first reviewed the outcome of their talks in Riyadh and Baghdad. A discussion then took place. The core of this discussion was that, important as they are, the Baghdad conference resolutions have not confronted the essence of the danger inherent in the treaty, which entails an unfair and abnormal solution for the Palestinian issue.

In view of the importance of the stand which the deputies should be adopting to confront the essence of the danger inherent in the treaty, the session was adjourned until Saturday. However, Speaker al-As'ad, perceiving the dangers inherent in the treaty, made an important statement after the meeting. He said: [begin recording]

I would like to explain that we called for this meeting following the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and before the results of the Baghdad conference became known. The meeting was convened to discuss the existing situation in the light of this momentous event--in the light of this tragic treaty as far as the Arab world is concerned.

We invited the foreign, defense, finance and economy committees and also the government to discuss the need for a unified and integrated Arab strategy. We have been in dire need of such a strategy since 1948 and until now. In short, this strategy must be an in-depth, practical and scientific strategy and not one dealing only with temporary and superficial issues. This strategy must cover the economic, military and political spheres. The Arabs must agree on such a plan in the face of the Israeli challenge which is directed at all of them.

If the reaction of the Arabs now calls for a military confrontation, let this military confrontation start from Lebanon. We say that in this case there will be national justification for this sacrifice. This sacrifice and loss on the level of south Lebanon will have an honorable motive. However, Lebanon and south Lebanon must not be offered up on a silver platter and for nothing to the enemy. Such a situation only benefits the enemy.

This plan not only aims at saving Lebanon but also at facing the Israeli challenge in the future. This is what we discussed today with the government. We told the government that the current situation is bad. Everybody knows the tragedy Lebanon is experiencing.

However, this must not make us hesitate to undertake an initiative. First, Lebanon will be doing a national duty when it undertakes such an initiative; second, it is Lebanon which is paying the price as a result of the absence of such a plan.

Therefore, we asked the government to undertake such an initiative by inviting the Arab states to a conference which would discuss this strategy. All the Arabs concerned must attend this conference. All resources and potential must be pooled at this conference and all possibilities must be takn into account.

We do not say that an incorrect stand was adopted at the Baghdad conference. Relations must be severed with Egypt. However, this is not enough. This is a negative victory, as it has been called, because the Arabs have not disagreed about this. However, what is required is that the Arabs should agree in depth on confronting the Israeli challenge.

We will resume discussing this topic with the government on Saturday morning.

BUTRUS CONFIRMS ENVOY TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM EGYPT

NC040640 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Apr 79 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has stated that Lebanon will implement the resolutions of the Baghdad conference one by one, starting with the recall of the Lebanese ambassador in Cairo.

LEBANESE FRONT MEETS: AL-JUMAYYIL, SHAM'UN COMMENT

NC031548 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Front held its weekly meeting today to discuss the general situation in Lebanon and in the area, particularly the Baghdad conference resolutions and their effect on the Lebanese arena.

After the meeting, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: Since the Palestinian question is essentially one of a people, not of a few kilometers of land, all lateral agreements would only be a temporary truce and would not lead to a just and lasting peace. It is true that the Egyptian people constitute half of the Arab world but if the other half maintains its hard line the area will not enjoy the aspired for peace until the agreements include the other Arab half.

Former President Camille Sham'un, who left the meeting before it was over, said: The Lebanese Government attended the Baghdad conference without consulting anybody else. However, we are watching developments both in relation to the peace between Egypt and Israel and the Baghdad conference resolutions, which might include several matters against the interest of security in this area. It is premature to give a final opinion on this important subject.

About the attack on the U.S. Embassy, Sham'un said: It is a very regrettable incident since it made no distinction between friends and foes.

'ARAFAT RETURNS TO BEIRUT FOLLOWING DAMASCUS MEETING

JN040614 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 4 Apr 79 JN

[Excerpt] Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, returned to Beirut last night after chairing the PLO Executive Committee meeting which was held in Damascus.

VOL REPORTS PALESTINIANS PLAN ANTI-U.S. OPERATIONS

NC031340 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The Lebanese security departments today revealed reports they received some time ago indicating the presence of a Palestinian plan drawn up by all the resistance organizations. The plan primarily aims at destroying U.S. interests throughout the Arab world, beginning in Lebanon. The plan basically aims at striking U.S. vital interests such as banks, branches of big companies and educational, cultural and other institutions. The reports indicate that this Palestinian plan would be implemented in the name of imaginary organizations belonging to one or more Palestinian organizations such as Black September, in order to keep the PLO clear of direct responsibility for these operations.

It has been learned that the United States is working out a plan of protection to safeguard its interests in Lebanon and the Arab world should local security departments be incapable of this mission.

In view of the seriousness of such operations, security meetings were held with the appropriate quarters to adopt the necessary measures to check subversive plans in the country.

VOL REPORTS UNSUCCESSFUL MUTINY IN ARAB ARMY OF LEBANON

NC031816 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] According to a report received by the responsible security department, the commander of the so-called Arab Army of Lebanon, the fugitive 1st Lt Ahmad al-Khatib, has foiled a mutiny in An-Nabatiyah Barracks. The mutiny was staged by Army Capt 'Abd al-Karim Salih in cooperation with Captain 'Ala', commander of Bayt al-Maqdis Battalion; 2d Lieut 'Abd al-Mawla, of Fatah; and Maj Muhammad Salim and Maj Tariq 'Abdallah.

A force of the so-called Arab Army of Lebanon has disarmed the group of Captain Salih.

AL-HUSS, ERSKINE DISCUSS ARMY DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTH

NC031252 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] At 1000 today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received at his office in Government House UNIFIL Commander Major General Erskine. During the meeting, which lasted 1 hour, they discussed developments in the south and the means for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 444.

After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said in answer to a question about his talks with Major General Erskine: It is known that Resolution 444 calls for the Lebanese Government to draw up a timetable in consultation with the UN Secretariat General.

When UN Assistant Secretary General Mr Urquhart visited Lebanon some time ago, we held talks with him and drew up a four-stage timetable. The first stage, which expires on 19 April, consists of four aspects: First, strengthening the civilian administration's presence in the UNIFIL's area of operations; second, strengthening the Lebanese military presence as of the beginning of April; third, consolidating the cease-fire and preventing any armed infiltration and fourth, the gradual advance of the UN forces and then the Lebanese Army to specific points near the border. These four aspects form the first stage.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: After the talks which have been held since then with the UNIFIL Command and the UN Secretariat General in New York, it was agreed to implement the four aspects of the first stage. It was also agreed that the implementation of this stage would be accompanied by the dispatch of a Lebanese Army battalion. Major General Erskine and some of his aides visited me this morning to confirm the UN approval of the first stage of the timetable, which aims at imposing Lebanese legality in the south.

Major General Erskine said: We briefed the prime minister on the situation in the south and the progress made so far in the implementation of Resolution 444. He said: We are awaiting the Lebanese Government's decision on the dispatch of the Lebanese Army to the south. We explained to Prime Minister al-Huss that we are ready to receive the army in our area of operations. He expressed hope that the army will enter the south soon.

Major General Erskine is expected to visit Defense Minister and Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri to discuss the same subject.

UN DELEGATE SAYS ISRAEL STILL OPPOSES ARMY DEPLOYMENT

NC032204 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis has received a cable from Lebanese UN Delegate Ghassan Tuwayni informing him that Israel continues to adopt a negative stand on the deployment of the Lebanese Army in south Lebanon. Tuwayni described the UN position on this matter as very good and as strongly supporting the deployment of the Lebanese Army in accordance with Resolution 444.

Tuwayni said that the Lebanese must get moving before 19 April so that it will not be said that they have neglected doing what they should have done in accordance with the UN resolution, which stipulates that the Lebanese Army should be deployed before 19 April.

UN COMMAND IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTS RELATIVE CALM

NC031818 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 3 Apr 79 NC

[Text] The situation in the UN forces' operations area in southern Lebanon was relatively calm today following the artillery clashes which broke out there last week.

A security report by the UN Forces Command in An-Naqurah today indicates that relative calm prevails in the area and that the over 100 Lebanese employees in the Command resumed their duties while the French forces have lifted the precautionary measures and roadblocks and the gunmen have withdrawn from the hills overlooking the command.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST SITUATION

LD031419 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 2 Apr 79 p 5 LD

[Interview given by Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Bishara al-Bun in Paris--date not given]

[Text] Question: What, in your opinion, is the role that the Soviet Union is likely to play in the coming stage in the Middle East and what do Syria and the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front" want it in particular to do within the framework of opposing the Egyptian-Israeli treaty?

Answer: The Soviet Union has stood with the Arabs through the various stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is natural therefore that it should continue to develop this support in accordance with the new stage. There is no doubt that Arab-Soviet relations are also bound to develop.

Question: Is there any plan to strengthen the steadfastness front's alliance with the Soviet Union on new bases insuring the countering of the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. alliance resulting from the bilateral treaty?

Answer: Have you heard of any state in the world that proclaims its policies and plans in advance? You will hear of such a policy when we approve it.

Question: There have been many questions regarding Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's sudden visit to Damascus. What was his objective?

Answer: I do not know. I am here and he is there. Is it possible to know by telephone about the contents of the talks?

Question: What is the purpose of your current tour of several West European capitals? Did you come to ask their governments for any particular stand toward developments in the area?

Answer: The Arabs--all the Arabs--want Europe to adopt a stand consistent with the UN resolutions and the Arab rights which are based on justice. In other words, any stand adopted under U.S. pressure, giving the impression that this or that country supports the [Egyptian-Israeli] treaty, will not serve the development of relations between the Arabs and the country concerned.

Question: What stand would you adopt against support for the treaty by any given country?

Answer: I have said that any country adopting such a stand would be defying the Arabs. Certainly none of us would accept such defiance and we would adopt a stand against it.

Question: Does this mean that certain economic measures, such as cutting off oil supplies or other measures, might be taken against such a state?

Answer: It is premature to talk about this. When a development occurs we will study it. We will study every development in due course. In other words, we must not assume things that might not happen and adopt a stand on this basis. All matters will be discussed within the Arab framework.

Question: It has been said that during your visit to London there were differences between your views and those of the British Government.

Answer: I did not see such differences.

Question: Do you expect a particular action from France with the aim of stepping up efforts to find a solution for the Middle East crisis through the United Nations?

Answer: The peace process has now come to a halt. It is now facing an obstacle, namely the treaty. How can we progress before removing this obstacle? We cannot march forward as long as we are facing an obstacle.

Question: The withdrawal of the Saudi battalion from the "Arab Deterent Forces" has been attributed to several different factors, including the claim that the military withdrawal also means Saudi political withdrawal from Lebanon. Is this how Syria views the withdrawal?

Answer: The withdrawal was because of the situation in Yemen. This is the direct reason. But for some time--that is, since the attack on Ambassador 'Ali ash-Sha'ir and Ambassador al-Bu'ayjan--we had felt that our Saudi brothers were inclined to reconsider the question of the Saudi battalion's presence in Lebanon. We see no political reasons for the withdrawal.

Question: It has been said that this withdrawal is a prelude to Syrian military withdrawal from Lebanon.

Answer: What do you mean by "Syrian Army withdrawal?"

Question: That this withdrawal would take place after the Lebanese Army has assumed certain security tasks. When the Syrian Army entered Lebanon, Syria said that when it could see that Lebanon was capable of organizing its military forces and of insuring security, the question of Syrian military presence would be reconsidered.

Answer: When Lebanon has a national army this will be a reason for all the Arabs to rejoice. Certainly, it will then be the duty of this army to shoulder all its national responsibilities.

Question: Do you velieve tnat under the new defense law the Lebanese Army can be regarded as qualified to shoulder such responsibilities?

Answer: These matters concern the Lebanese. We would welcome anything acceptable to the Lebanese.

Question: There is a fear in Lebanon that the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty would be accompanied by internal disturbances in Lebanon with the aim of preoccupying Syria.

Answer: Nothing will preoccupy Syria. Nothing can distract it from facing the new situation in the area. Nobody should deceive himself that Lebanon can be turned into a trap for Syria.

Question: Do you not, therefore, expect the outbreak of disturbances of which the Lebanese are afraid? Should such disturbances occur, do you think it is possible to contain them?

Answer: It is assumed that nobody would get involved [in such disturbances] But should anybody get involved then there will be reaction to every action.

Question: Is it true that preparations are being made to convene a Syrian-Lebanese summit between Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad?

Answer: Nobody has discussed this subject with it. Indeed, nobody has.

ALGERIA

APS: AS-SADAT FORGETS COMMITMENTS TO ARAB SUMMITS

LD031504 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

["Peace Treaty: Repercussions"--APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 3/4/79 (APS)--Washington's military objectives towards the Middle East are getting clear, and so are the dangers derived from the American-Egyptian-Zionist pact for the region, now that it is evident for the international community that this peace treaty is a pretext for imperialism to assure its intensive penetration in the Middle East, by using Cairo and Tel Aviv for its aggression purposes against the Arab nation, Palestinian people and African liberation movements.

President as-Sadat has accepted to go first to Jerusalem then to Washington, despite American and Israeli intentions not to withdraw from the occupied territories. Only As-Sadat can sell off Egyptian sovereignty for a few dollars, and plays imperialism's game, forgetting Egypt's commitments to the Arab summits. As-Sadat is really a psychopath as stated by General Ash-Shadhili--the Egyptian hero in the October War.

Official Egyptian, U.S. and Zionist declarations of hostility towards the Arab nation and particularly against Libya and the Palestinian resistance constitute a "psychological preparation" aiming at justifying an eventual aggression.

It is not a secret that American arms to Egypt will be used against Libya, Ethiopia and African liberation movements, and this "armed peace" the U.S. is imposing on Cairo will completely destabilize the area in favour of Israel.

Facing the Zionist settlements in the occupied territories and military repraisals against the Palestinian population, the Arab nation riposted by taking revolutionary measures to isolate the Cairo regime, and [words indistinct] in the region.

The Baghdad foreign ministers conference reasserted Arab determination to tackle imperialism's plan in the Middle East and decided the basic sanctions, which can be reinforced in the future. The door is open for rougher sanctions to assure Arab rights.

CUBAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BRINGS MESSAGE FROM CASTRO

LD032000 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general Secretary of the FLN, has received Mr Marcelo Fernandez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of foreign trade, who handed him a message from President Fidel Castro.

The Cuban minister, who has been in Algeria since yesterday, is reported to have stated that he has been entrusted by President Fidel Castro with the task of inviting President Bendjedid to take part in the next conference of nonaligned countries, which is to be held in the Cuban capital next September. The Cuban minister is said to have added that his country has taken all the steps necessary for the successful holding of the conference, and that member countries have been asked to formulate suggestions and proposals aimed at making this sixth summit the starting point for a qualitatively higher stage of the movement's thought and action.

LIBYA

SPOKESMAN DENIES PRESENCE OF LIBYAN TROOPS IN UGANDA

LD031852 Tripoli JANA in English 1712 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--A Foreign Secretariat spokesman in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah said that Libya did not send any Libyan troops to Uganda but sent several Libyan instructors, and supplied Uganda with some of the fuel it needs.

The reason for not supporting Amin, the spokesman added, is that Libya is not sure yet whether Uganda is fighting a regular war with Tanzania or Ugandans are fighting each other.

NYERERE CHARGED WITH MASSACRE OF MUSLIMS IN UGANDA

LD030940 Tripoli JANA in English 0844 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

["Nyerere Continues War of Extermination Against Muslims in Uganda"--JANA headline]

[Text] Dar es Salaam, April, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--According to news from Dar es Salaam, wide-scale arrests are being carried out against Muslims in Tanzania who have expressed objections against the horrific massacres of Ugandan Muslims by Nyerere forces.

Sources indicate that groups of Muslims in the city of Tinja shouted anti-Nyerere slogans after last Friday prayers describing him to be an enemy of Islam and Muslims.

The Muslims in Tanzania called on all Muslims in the world to declare "holy jihad", in support of the Muslims in Uganda in confronting the crusader's onslaught to which Nyerere's regime is exposing them.

JIBRIL, PFLP DELEGATION ARRIVE IN TRIPOLI

LD031724 Tripoli JANA in English 1405 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Ahmad Jibril, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command, arrived in Tripoli yesterday heading a delegation from the front's Political Bureau on a visit due to last for several days in the Jamahiriyah.

He was received at Tripoli International Airport by a representative from the Arab Liaison Bureau and the Front's representative in the Jamahiriyah. Mr. Jibril said that his visit to the Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of consultations between the revolutionary progressive forces to confront the capitulatory conspiracy and the hostile pact formed between Carter, the leader of imperialism, assassin terrorist Begin and the defeated Egyptian president against our Arab nation.

In a statement to our correspondent, Mr Jibril stressed that Arab progressive forces should speed up their action to contain and foil the imperialist attack and prove the ability of our masses in steadfastness and confrontation.

With regard to the Egyptian military build-up on the Jamahiriyah's borders, Mr Jibril affirmed that the dreams of defeated "Kafour" to play the role of the policeman and deal a blow to the revolutionary and progressive regimes, particularly the Jamahiriyah, will be shattered by the strong stand of our Arab people's steadfastness in the Jamahiriyah who are backed by all Arab nationalists and progressive forces.

MOROCCO

GOVERNMENT COUNCIL STUDIES INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

LD031450 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Apr 3 (MAP)--Maata Bouabid, Morocco's prime minister and justice minister, presided over, here Monday, a Government Council. Opening the meeting, the prime minister declared that the fact that he does not belong to any political formation, as it was stated by King Hassan on the occasion of his appointment, constitutes a positive factor suspectible to harmonize the government's action, and to create a cohesion and a complementarity between the activities of the government's members. Afterwards, the Government's Council examined the following points inscribed in its agenda:

1. Pursuit of dialog with the trade union's officials, and the PATRONAT's representatives.
2. Preparation of the forthcoming parliamentarian session. The bills projects that the government is to present to the House of Representatives and the bill's propositions presented by the parliamentarian commissions to the government for approval had been examined.

The setting up of conditions of reparatition [as received] of 100 billions, consecrated to the development of local communities.

The prime minister will make a governmental declaration at the beginning of the forthcoming parliamentarian session.

The council also examined and adopted several text projects. Concerning international agreements, the council studied the following:

1. Morocco-Sudanese agreement on aerial transport.
2. Agreement with Jordan, organizing regular aerial liaisons.
3. Morocco-Romanian cooperation, economic and technical agreement.
4. Morocco-Romanian agreement on the granting of a loan as well as a bill project on the approval of the ratification agreement of the said agreement. The works of the government council will be submitted to King Hassan's appreciation.

UNFP LEADER CABLES 'ARAFAT ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TREATY

LD021452 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 2 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, Apr 2 (MAP)--Abdellah Ibrahim, secretary general of the National Union of Popular Forces (UNFP), addressed here a message to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in which the party denounces the Egyptian regime and its hostile policy toward the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation, and also underlined the necessity to mobilize all Arab potentials for the implementation of the Baghdad Summit resolutions, to isolate Cairo's regime on the Arab and international scene.

The UNFP which reaffirms its solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and with Egyptian people underlines that the Palestinian question is the cause of all Arab countries.

SUDAN

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARAB ACCUSATIONS

JN031757 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 3 April 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, April 3 (SUNA)--Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Ali Shummu described foreign and particularly Arab media's reports about Sudan as a deliberate campaign based on unfounded and distorted facts.

In press statement the minister said that it is always Sudan who is offended while it is very keen not to fabricate news about others but he mentioned no names. "Our foreign policy comes in line with the current situation and we are keen not to do what we would later regret but some others think we have to follow their paces which is impossible. Our history and thought would not allow us to follow our inferior in thought who has nothing to credit him but his wealth", said the minister.

TUNISIA

FRENCH DAILY INTERVIEWS PREMIER NOUIRA ON PEACE PACT

LD031700 Tunis TAP in English 1405 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Paris, April 3 (TAP--"Nothing is settled, that is our viewpoint. We expressed it honestly and courteously," Premier Hedi Nouira stated in an interview with the French daily LE FIGARO answering a question on the evolution of the Middle East situation.

"President Bourguiba, the prime minister said, has since 1965 made his viewpoint known. This raised a hue and cry but some people are quite happy now to recover a tiny part of what they were able to preserve that time. However, our stand is grounded on our belief that the Palestinian people must have a home and we do not accept the conflict to be settled otherwise. There is no reason to have millions of wandering Arabs only because there had been a wandering Jew for centuries. Besides, all that we are recommending is conformable to the international legality and that is why we are for a coming back to the pre-1967 frontier so the Middle East would recover its stability.

While recognizing everyone's considerable efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the crisis and especially President Carter's, we believe there is a tragical misunderstanding (?for) President Carter's and As-Sadat's statements not in concert with Begin's".

"All of us know about Begin's statement concerning Jerusalem while President As-Sadat, the UNO, the Security Council and the USA believe this town to be an occupied territory. Besides, Begin does not reject the settlement policy, a Palestinian homeland or a Palestinian state. All that he recognizes is the autonomy of individuals and of territories.

"That is a Talmudical logic: Does autonomy means to have a right to pray or to have a municipality? Do not think that [is] what the agreement are stipulating.

"So three or four no's will break off all that has been built. Besides Begin is making things worse."

To the following question, don't you think Begin's apology is due to some internal political concerns? The prime minister answered: "Begin can say whatever he thinks to his people but he has no doubt [as received] to humiliate other people. He is trying to deceive both President Carter and President As-Sadat and (?I am) not far from believing he has succeeded, too".

BEGIN MAKES AIRPORT STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM CAIRO

TA031604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1524 GMT 3 Apr 79 TA

[Statement by Prime Minister Menahem Begin on his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport following his visit to Cairo--live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have returned from Egypt to Eretz Yisra'el following a visit which lasted 30 hours. Tomorrow at 0745 GMT a Cabinet session will be convened and at 0900 GMT there will be an extraordinary Knesset session. In these two sessions I will give a detailed statement about the results of my visit to Cairo. Today I want to tell you that these were the most important 30 hours in our relations with Egypt and in the history of the Middle East.

We were received by President as-Sadat with extraordinary hospitality particularly expressed yesterday evening in the ceremonial dinner in which the Egyptian president made warm remarks in honor of his guest. I answered him with a short speech. I assume it was publicized in Israel and therefore I will not repeat its contents. It was a most exciting evening, a dinner shared by Israelis, Egyptians and Jews sitting together with a feeling of fraternity and brotherhood.

Since yesterday night and up until this afternoon, for nearly 24 hours broken briefly for sleep, we met with the Egyptian people, with thousands, with tens of thousands and some even say hundreds of thousands of Egyptians in the streets. The Cairo residents lined up on both sides of the streets when we moved from one place to another--when we were on our way from a visit to President as-Sadat--these thousands and tens of thousands stood on both sides of the streets and cheered and waved their hands and greeted us. It is possible to say their hearts opened up to us. This is the main impression.

In the talk between President as-Sadat and myself we reached certain, most important conclusions and agreements which I will report to the Cabinet and the Knesset tomorrow. For this reason today I will settle for this short statement and will not be able to go into details. You will surely understand I have to respect the Knesset and the Cabinet and they should be the first bodies to hear from me the details of the agreements reached with President as-Sadat.

BEGIN HOLDS CABINET SESSION PRIOR TO KNESSET BRIEFING

TA040901 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0850 GMT 4 Apr 79

[Text] A Cabinet session has just ended. The Cabinet approved Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's trip to Cairo on Sunday. Our correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports that it has been stated that the Transport Ministry is already prepared for the opening of the borders between Israel and Egypt. The Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry has begun to prepare for mutual tourism between the two countries. The prime minister reported to the Cabinet in detail about his visit to Cairo. At 1100 he will make a detailed statement on his visit to the Knesset.

Further Details

TA040915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Apr 79 TA

[Text] The short Cabinet session ended half an hour ago. In the meeting the Cabinet heard a report from the prime minister about his talks in Cairo.

The meeting lasted about half an hour and afterwards several ministers said Begin's remarks were optimistic, but did not contain any surprises.

Minister Ehrlich told our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli that the prime minister's report only reinforces his opinion that the Likud should initiate elections now. At the short meeting the Cabinet still had time to endorse the recommendation of the Knesset Labor Committee to give a one-time compensation to large families beginning with the first child. This grant will amount to 40 Israeli pounds for each child. Social Betterment Minister Katz said efforts will be made to pay this compensation this month.

In a few minutes the Knesset plenum will convene to hear the prime minister's speech about his visit in Cairo. The representatives of the factions will make statements. We shall cover the beginning of the Knesset session live.

BEGIN SPEAKS TO KNESSET PLENUM AFTER CAIRO VISIT

TA041013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0905 GMT 4 Apr 79 TA

[Text] Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Knesset. In that most important event, the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and ourselves, in this international document we have determined--with the consent of the two governments, and today I may say: with the consent of the two peoples--that the state of war between Egypt and Israel will be terminated, a situation which prevailed for more than 30 years, and peace will be established between the two nations and the two countries. You have all, ladies and gentlemen Knesset members, seen the ceremony of the signing of the peace treaty in Washington on Monday, about 10 days ago, and therefore there is no need for me to give more details about it.

However, I would like to point out that along with the peace treaty and its annexes we have also signed a document of international status, the fruit of our foreign minister's initiative, and that is the agreement between the United States and Israel. Its content was publicized, and I do not have to read it to you. I would only like to say: That document harms no party, but has a positive significance; first of all for us, and also for the important role the great superpower, the United States, can fulfill in the Middle East.

In addition, during our conversations in Washington, we solved the problem of the oil supply. We will begin receiving the oil precisely 1 day after we leave the oilfields in the Sinai. This was not so before we held our talks in Washington. I would like to thank the U.S. administration for the very important guarantee for supplying oil for 15 full years if we do not receive it in accordance with our annual needs from another source. However, the truth is--and this is what we told our friends the Americans--that we do not want to have to implement this guarantee soon. For our part, we shall do everything possible so that this is not necessary. We consume between eight and nine million [quantity not specified, presumably tons] of oil a year. For the time being, we have seen no need or necessity to ask the U.S. administration to supply us with oil from its sources, because even before the shah was ousted we acted wisely and the energy minister diversified the sources of oil supply, and we shall continue to do so in the future, that is: We will continue to diversify the sources of supply.

But when we leave the Sinai oilfields, we will begin receiving the oil with the full consent of Egypt immediately, the day after we evacuate them.

I hope there will be no need to ask the United States to implement their guarantee. There is no doubt that it will carry it out if we ask it to do so, but one must remember that the United States has its own energy problem, and we would not like to have inaccurate interpretations, but they may come, with respect to giving oil to Israel, or selling oil to Israel at a time of an energy crisis in the United States itself.

When we were still in Washington, we have agreed--President as-Sadat and myself--that I should visit Cairo on Monday, April 2. On the eve of my departure for Cairo, in accordance with this agreement between the Egyptian president and myself, rumors were abundant and even reports were published, both in the newspapers and through the electronic media, that the Egyptians were not satisfied with holding the visit on 2 April. They would be grateful if I postponed the visit until a later date which would be more suitable to President as-Sadat. In light of these reports, I talked with my two friends--Brigadier General Poran, my military secretary, and Dr Ben-Elisar, the director general of the prime minister's office, when they were in Cairo. I asked them to make contact with the Egyptian authorities and present them with a clear and simple question: Do you, the future hosts, want this visit or not? Do you want it to take place as set with President as-Sadat, for Monday, 2 April, or are you interested in its postponement?

My colleagues presented that question, as I asked, and the Egyptian hosts gave a clear and unequivocal answer: We ask that the prime minister of Israel come on Monday, 2 April, to Cairo as agreed between himself and President as-Sadat. After we received that reply, we launched the preparations for the departure for Cairo.

The composition of the delegation to the Egyptian capital was special. It is not only my privilege, but also my duty to report to the Knesset members on its composition. The Israeli delegation included members of the Hagana, Palmach, Irgun and Lehi, wounded soldiers from the Israeli wars, including...

[MK Ge'ula Kohen--interrupting]...From the Lehi did not go. There was one man whom you had invited, but the Lehi members demonstratively did not go. Those who were invited said they would not go.

[Begin] I did not hear this, and I would like to continue. I repeat: the delegation included members of the Hagana, Panmach, Irgun and Lehi, wounded soldiers from the Israeli wars including Israeli heroes, bereaved families, IDF officers who were POW's in Egypt. In one, conclusive, word: The delegation included Israel's courage and glory. The delegation included the chairman of the Zionist Federation Executive and his wife, the chairman of the U.S. Jewry's Conference of the Presidents and the former chairman of this central body of the large Jewish community in the United States, the president of the World Sephardic Jewry Federation and his wife, newspaper editors, the former Foreign Minister MK Abba Eban and his wife--in one word: The representation of the Jewish people in the homeland and in the diaspora participated in the Israeli delegation.

After a 50-minute flight, we arrived in Cairo.

[Unidentified Knesset member, interrupting] The Israeli laborers were not represented there.

[Begin] What was this interjection again, I did not hear it?

[Unidentified Knesset member] Does Abba Eban not represent the Israeli Labor Party?

[Unidentified Knesset member] The Histadrut was not represented.

[Unidentified Knesset member] Abba Eban, you are a billionaire.

[Knesset speaker] Quiet please, quiet please.

[Begin] I would like to ask the Knesset members, both the younger ones and the veterans, to use the microphones properly. Nothing can be heard. But if I can hear, I will reply. Today, President Carter is not here, so today I will reply.

Well, after 50 minutes, we arrived at the Cairo airport. The Israeli flag, alongside the Egyptian flag, was hoisted at the airport. An Egyptian Army honor guard stood at parade rest and the Hatiqva [Israeli national anthem] was played. There are those who call this--in quotation marks--pomp, Mr Speaker. Perhaps this is pomp, but I would suggest not dismissing its symbolic value. I think this must be taken at its full value. I assume that the assessment will be understood by all if I should present the following question: If, 2 years ago, someone had said that on 2 April 1979 a man fulfilling the role of the prime minister of Israel would leave for Cairo and would be received by the raising of the Israeli flag and by playing the Hatiqva and standing at parade rest, would he have believed this?

[MK Ge'ula Kohen] Two years ago there was no prime minister who was prepared to return settlements, there was no prime minister who was prepared to return the entire Sinai, so it did not happen, of course. If we should return a bit more, then the Hatiqva will also be played in Syria. If we should return Jerusalem, then the Hatiqva will be played in Jordan, too.

[Knesset Speaker Shamir] MK Ge'ula Kohen, you do not have the right to speak or to deliver a full speech.

[Begin] I did not hear what MK Ge'ula Kohen said, but I had the impression in the end that you agreed with what you said, so everything is all right. [laughter]

Yes, I think all the members of the delegation shared one feeling: It is an important day for Israel, for Egypt, for the Middle East. This is a layer toward making the hearts grow fonder and in deepening the mutual relations between ourselves and Egypt. We drove several kilometers through Heliopolis, from the airport to At-Tahirah Palace. The truth is that only few stood along the way, and from among them a few waved their hands and welcomed us, but the following is also the truth: Beginning with the evening of that Monday until 1600, when we left Cairo for home, a change took place in this as well. I shall merely say that thousands and tens of thousands of Egyptians went out to the streets and cheered.

Mr Speaker, we had a very exciting encounter at the Cairo central synagogue. This is a splendid synagogue built by a great Jewish community--approximately 80,000 people. But, thank God, the Jews in Egypt have not been annihilated like the Jews of Europe. Most of them are here, at home. Only a small portion of that community--150 men and women, and only 11 children--has remained. They were all, or at least the vast majority of them were at the synagogue. We said the Afternoon Prayer together. I would like to point out that the prayer, which burst forth from the heart, really came from the depths of our hearts and was a prayer of thanksgiving, both for us and for the remnants of the Jewish community in Cairo.

They themselves said: Perhaps we dreamt during all those 30 years of such a moment, perhaps we did not believe that it would come, but it did. Therefore, it was a moment when the brethren sat together: The Israeli delegation and the remainder of the Jewish community in Cairo at once, in a synagogue, addressing their Father in heaven in a prayer for peace, that there might be real peace between ourselves and Egypt.

In the conversation that was held between President as-Sadat and myself on Tuesday, between 1100 and 1200 and which lasted 50 minutes, the following agreements were reached: First, a direct connection between us was established. From today onward, the Egyptian president would be able to contact me directly and tell me whatever he would like to tell me, and vice versa: I will be able to telephone him and talk to him. Secondly, on 26 May Al-'Arish will be handed over to Egypt. The following day I shall visit Al-'Arish and, with the consent of President as-Sadat and myself, a statement will be delivered which will include two arrangements: One, that a corridor will be opened in the Sinai for direct flights from Egypt to Israel and from Israel to Egypt, not in a route with detours, and two--which is more important--the border between Egypt and Israel will be opened for the free movement of citizens on the basis of mutuality. Clearly, technical problems are also involved in the two matters, the specialists will deal with them, but on both of them full agreement was reached between the Egyptian president and myself. Third, the talks on the autonomy arrangements in accordance with the Camp David agreement will be held alternately in Beersheba and in Al-'Arish. Fourth, the committees will be headed alternately by an Egyptian and an Israeli representative or, as we say in English, in rotation. [last word in English] Fifth, in these places and in this manner the talks on the military subjects will be held, headed by the two defense ministers: our Israeli minister, and that of Egypt. Sixth, a certain alteration will be made in the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, between Ne'ot Sinai and Al-'Arish.

Mr Speaker, Knesset members...

[MK Ge'ula Kohen--interrupting] What about the laundry?

[MK Tawfiq Tubi] What about the laundry, Mr Prime Minister? You forgot to talk about the laundry. How shall we launder the stains of the conquest and of the abuse of the Palestinian Arab people? This you forgot to talk about.

[Begin] Mr Tawfiq Tubi, if you see a need... MK Tawfiq Tubi, you have made an interjection. You are--a veteran Knesset member, since the first Knesset, just like myself--listen to the answer.

[MK Tawfiq Tubi] Why did you complain to the U.S. Congress about the heckling in the Knesset?

[Begin] Did I complain to the Congress?

[Tubi] Yes, this is what the papers say.

[Begin] In the papers and you believe everything you read in the papers? [laughter]

[Unidentified Knesset member] He believes everything written in PRAVDA.

[Begin] I think you yourself at times write in the papers, so who should know better than yourself that one should not believe what is written in the newspaper? [laughter]

[MK Uri Avneri] Mr Prime Minister, you are exaggerating.

[Unidentified Knesset member] So what about the laundry?

[Begin] Well, I wanted to answer you: Mr Tawfiq Tubi, if you want to wash your linen, who will stop you?

Mr Speaker, during its session on Sunday the Cabinet ratified--in accordance with the law in Israel--the peace treaty with its annexes as well as the agreement between ourselves and the United States.

[MK Ge'ula Kohen] And also the additional concessions?

[Begin] I beg your pardon?

[Kohen] Did it also ratify the further concessions to come?

[Begin] Those to come? If they should come, then we will bring it to the Knesset.

[Kohen] Those already included, but will only be revealed later.

[Begin] Everything that will be agreed upon will be brought to the Knesset for approval, after the ratification. Friends, I would like to ask you to limit your curiousity and be patient a bit. Everything will come in time. The exchange of instruments of ratification will probably take place next week in the Sinai, in the U.S. early warning station.

Mr Speaker, very serious problems are still facing us. No one is underestimating them and I do not at all want to hide things, but I am announcing that there will be differences between ourselves and Egypt. They say so, and we say so. There is no purpose in concealing this fact. But we have come a long way. Since As-Sadat responded to my invitation to come to Jerusalem and deliver his speech from this dais in front of the Knesset members and our people and many nations, to this day--and that was in November, that makes 2 months and 14 months; all in all 16 months, this is a relatively short period--we have signed the peace treaty and brought the state of war to an end, and I could return the visit the Egyptian president made to Jerusalem with my visit to Cairo. We hope to overcome the problems which we will still have to face. We, Mr Speaker, are deepening the relations between ourselves and Egypt and have determined to build the edifice of peace.

Allon Knesset Speech

TA041126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0925 GMT 4 Apr 79 TA

[Speech by Alinement MK Yig'al Allon during the Knesset session held after Begin's return from Egypt--live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, honorable Knesset, the prime minister's trip to Cairo was timely and useful. I did not share the view of those questioning the timing of the visit and the inconvenience the visit might have apparently caused the hosts due to the negative attitude of the Arab countries against Egypt, which preferred the political way to achieve its goals to the military way. Egypt made its great decision not by inviting the prime minister for a reciprocal visit to Egypt but by signing the peace treaty. This was also said by the prime minister, who exchanges whispers with his deputy all the time. I shall wait until the honorable ministers stop whispering to each other. I will not speak as long as you keep doing this--this is what the Knesset cafeteria is for.

I repeat, you will not whisper at the expense of my time [time allocated for speech].

The Egyptian Government made its great decision not by inviting the prime minister for a reciprocal visit to its country but by signing the peace treaty. However, Begin's planned visit turned into a test of the wind and the prime minister deserves appreciation for not being deterred from undertaking a calculated risk and for holding the visit which was important in my eyes. It cannot be doubted that the visit was unique of its kind and timeliness. However, whether it was also a historic visit from the point of view of reinforcing the credibility of peace--this only the expected historic developments can determine. One thing is clear, since the peace treaty was signed it was absolutely necessary that this visit be held and it is good it was held. Furthermore, from the moment a question mark was placed on the timing and other relevant matters, it was necessary that this visit be held. Otherwise the negative implication inherent in the postponement of the visit would have been more meaningful than the arguments in favor of holding it. Although we would have liked the prime minister's visit to have a character similar to that of President as-Sadat's visit in Jerusalem, we will congratulate the host for keeping the rule of hospitality so typical of the Arab tradition and for changing the severe countenance characterizing his appearance at the signing ceremony in Washington to warmth and cordiality in Cairo.

There is surely room for satisfaction provided that the prime minister will not, as he is wont, be seized by intoxication and euphoria [last word repeated in both English and Hebrew] that have cost us so dearly in both the recent and distant past. Knesset members, euphoria is just like depression--these do not institute health situations [last word in English] for the consolidation of a balanced and well-considered policy. I am afraid that the pomp and signs of ceremony, which I do not underrate, put the government out of balance when things happened following As-Sadat's dramatic visit in Jerusalem.

The main tasks and the most difficult decisions are still ahead. We will act correctly and wisely in our readiness to give up what can be given up and courage to resolutely insist on our own when the subjects in question are vital for our security. It seems to me that although the peace treaty closes a circle, a more difficult and complicated circle is opening upon the beginning of the negotiations on the destiny of autonomy. It seems to me that the fate of autonomy, to which Israel committed itself in the Camp David agreements, will be the element which ultimately decides what chances we will have for negotiations on additional peace treaties and what the life of the peace treaty with Egypt will be.

To my regret, I cannot agree either with the Israeli prime minister or with the Egyptian president, on their conception of the nature of autonomy, its frameworks and powers, a conception which is influenced by their understanding of the ultimate nature of autonomy after the transitional 5-year period. Mr as-Sadat, publicly and firmly, states that autonomy will finally develop into an independent state that will include East Jerusalem under its sovereignty. Begin undoubtedly and in good faith believes that at the end of the 5-year transitional period of autonomy Israel will extend its sovereignty to it. Both are mistaken, Mr Chairman, and are navigating their ships toward an inevitable collision. I accept that the Palestinian problem should be solved. However, one national problem is not solved by establishing two states or by endangering the existence of another state.

The world has sufficiently suffered from the existence of two states made up of the same people--the world has adequately suffered from the existence of two Koreas, two Vietnams, two Germanies, two Berlins, two Yemens...

[MK Uri Avneri here interjects to the effect that the issue in question is two peoples, not one]

There is no need for two Palestinian states on both sides of the river--one west of it and the other east of it. The areas densely populated with Arabs in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza should constitute a real autonomy for a transitional period in the spirit of the Camp David agreements, and ultimately speaking, if autonomy is established, in spite of its limitations, they will gain a reunion with their brethren beyond the river even if this is in a federative structure under a single Jordanian-Palestinian sovereignty.

[Uri Avneri--interjection] Who are you to impose on them how they should or want to live. In God's name, would you accept the imposition of such a thing on yourself?

[Another unidentified Knesset member--interjecting] Uri Avneri let this be imposed on Hussayn. Why should it be imposed on us?

[Allon] I would suggest to the prime minister to turn down the ill advice of his advisers and some of his Coalition partners with regard to the nature of autonomy. It is impossible to separate a personal autonomy from the territory on which these persons are sitting. It is only in Chagall's paintings that the figures are hovering in the air. The unreasonable idea of functional division is the idea underlying this Rhodesian conception. In reality, a man and a people are linked to a definite territory. It is possible that the PLO's toughness and the Jordanian king's mistake will discourage the residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from realizing their right for full autonomy, albeit limited to a transitional period. We will not be able to impose autonomy, autonomy cannot be imposed--those concerned should be enabled to realize their right. Imposition and autonomy are two contradictory things. We shall exhaust the chance for establishing it. However, let us not supply a cause for those in the Arab rejectionist front who wish to reject it because of misleading ideas or spectacular acts of settlement in the wrong places [MK Me'ir Pa'il interjects: not in the Jordan Valley either, not in the Jordan Valley either] Gush-Emunim style. Let us not listen to the Ahithophel advice [Ahithophel is a biblical adviser who gave wrong advice to Absalom David's son] of those who ceased to understand what security means.

[Uri Avneri interjects] On the contrary, Ahithophel gave good advice.

[Allon] If it is decreed that autonomy will not be set up in the foreseeable future, the responsibility for this should not be allowed to fall on Israel's shoulders but on the Arab party for its barren and sterile policy.

The attempts at a dialog between Jordan and the PLO seem to me strange and pregnant with dangers for the persistence of the peace progress on other fronts as well. I am afraid that the Jordanian king is trying to ride a tiger. The end of such riders is well known. I do not view his stubborn, negative position as his final answer.

In any event, it is important that he does not allow PLO gangs to establish themselves on Jordan's land and to act from it against Israel. Israel shall not be passive if a deterioration indeed occurs along the eastern front. His majesty should rather carry out his part in the Camp David agreements and make his contribution. He can be most important in strengthening the stones of peace and foundations of peace and in constructively solving the Palestinian problem. Otherwise, he will lose the monopoly so far reserved for him on this problem.

Israel, too, should carry out its part in fortifying its security on the border regions in the arid east and south, by redeploying the IDF along the arid strategic boundaries together with maintaining cooperation between itself and the self-governing authority in combating terrorism which is a dangerous enemy to any peace-seeking man aiming at an honorable and constructive solution to this complex problem.

The process of normalization of relations should turn the peace treaty signed between governments into a reality of peace, a real peace between the peoples and countries. In this sphere, in the sphere of weaving the relations, we, the Israelis, will have to reveal readiness and self-control, generosity and tact.

Finally, on this great day my heart is also with the settlers of the Rafah approaches and the shore stretching along the Elat Gulf as far as Ofira [Sharm ash-Shaykh]. They settle there according to a national decree in order to give their share in consolidating a defensible border. I firmly reject the wicked claim to the effect that they constitute an obstacle on the way to peace. On the contrary, their resoluteness and the very fact of their existence convinced Egypt that Israel would insist on its rights not only for peace but also for security. It is not their fault that the government ceded their areas and their settlements and the airfields adjacent to them with a rash and unforgivable step. Now, although belatedly, the prime minister should dare confront the settlers and ask their forgiveness for desecrated principles, violated commitments and short-lived fine and flowery language.

[Uri Avneri interjects] You should ask forgiveness for getting them there...

[Allon] The most important thing is to guarantee and plan, together with them, an honorable future for them in the near and distant future. We will not stone those who, full of disappointment, have decided to leave their settlements at once and settle in another place. We should help them to do this. However, with the greatest deference I would expect most of them to keep their guard, like that captain who does not prematurely abandon his wrecked ship.

[Avneri interjects] What? Do you want them to drown?

[Allon] Since this state does not have a consistent authoritative captain, they may constitute a collective [last word in English] captain regarding the region with which they were entrusted, for who knows what the future has in store for us?

We shall do everything in our power to establish peace between the peoples, to have peace between us and our other neighbors. We shall do our utmost to find a constructive solution for the Palestinian problem. However, peace will be established even if it includes security for Israel to be achieved by its own independent power.

EGYPT'S 'ALI TO VISIT 'ONLY AFTER WITHDRAWAL'

TA031044 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Apr 79 TA

[By MA'ARIV correspondents in Cairo]

[Text] "I will not visit Israel until it withdraws from every centimeter of Egyptian land," Egyptian Defense Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said last night in reply to a question by the MA'ARIV correspondent.

"Do you foresee a possibility of military cooperation between Egypt and Israel?"

General 'Ali smiled and replied: "I would not have thought of such a possibility before President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. However, at the moment, I cannot say this is impossible." The Egyptian defense minister further added: "There will be no need for this."

Gen Avraham Tamir, head of the Israeli Defense Ministry's Committee for National Planning, this morning will meet with the Egyptian defense minister to discuss the expected visit to Egypt of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. It seems that the visit will take place next week and it will be the first in a series of visits to be held alternately in Egypt and in Israel.

Last night, General Tamir and the Egyptian defense minister's assistant, General (Laviv), discussed the issues to be on the agenda of the military committee. An Israeli-Egyptian team--to convene between the meetings of the joint committee--will work alongside the joint committee which will convene once a month.

In their coming meeting, Defense Minister Weizman and his Egyptian counterpart will decide to renew direct contacts between them. Last night, it was unofficially reported in Cairo that Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will meet with As-Sadat during his stay in Egypt. According to previous plans, the defense minister was supposed to arrive in Cairo on Thursday. However, the visit has been postponed by a few days so as not to burden the Egyptians with numerous visits by Israeli personalities and in order not to overshadow the prime minister's visit to Cairo.

DAYAN SCORES EEC POSITION ON PEACE TREATY

TA031433 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Apr 79 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Dayan expressed disappointment with the statement of the nine Common Market countries regarding the peace treaty. The statement expresses reservations about the peace treaty. The foreign minister spoke during a lunch given in his honor by the ambassadors of the nine Common Market countries in Israel. Minister Dayan noted that the statement of the nine Common Market countries did not express appreciation for the far-reaching concessions made by Israel and its agreement to withdraw from the Sinai and remove all the civilian settlements there. In addition, it did not express any appreciation for the position of Egypt for not deviating from the road of peace in spite of the heavy pressures exerted on it by the Arab countries.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that Minister Dayan reprimanded these ambassadors, saying that the position of their countries does not promote the path of peace. In his opinion, the Common Market countries could extend economic aid and propose joint development plans for them, for Egypt and Israel.

BAZARGAN GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE ON CURRENT ISSUES

LD031735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Prime Minister Bazargan's press conference in Tehran on 3 April--recorded, with questions and answers read by the prime minister]

[Text] Praise be to God, the Islamic Republic has become something definite and unquestionable. Well, it is now definite, but its constitution should be determined, so that the constitution can establish whether or not the republic needs a president, for in theory there could be an Islamic republic without a president; one cannot state this beforehand. I only cited the possibility as an example; I did not mean to say this will be so. Since the constitution has not yet been approved and the constituent assembly has not yet been formed to endorse the constitution, for anyone to nominate himself as a presidential candidate beforehand would be putting the cart before the horse. So I have neither declared myself as a candidate nor am I prepared to deny anything in this regard. Besides, it is up to the people to indicate their attitude.

As regards how long the budget will be on a monthly basis, I should first state that it is not on a monthly basis but on a quarterly basis, and even this is not like what used to exist in the past. What is happening is that the plan and budget organization has set a ceiling for government expenditure within the 3-month period concerned. Since drawing up a budget requires an enormous amount of time and effort, which this provisional government with thousands upon thousands of problems and difficulties has, of course, had no chance to deal with, and since, furthermore, we are busy working out changes and reforms, and various committees and ministries are currently engaged on this matter aimed at smoothing out and simplifying the functions of ministries and government agencies, the budget could not be prepared in advance. However, the plan and budget organization hopes to prepare a full annual budget within 3 months.

Mr Mostafa Ja'fari from the Voice of America Radio has asked: Could you say what provisions have been made in the constitution of the Islamic Republic for recognized minority groups?

Well, this constitution, as I have said, is not definite yet, for it is being studied. I have personally asked the representatives of religious minorities to propose whatever they think would improve their status so that these proposals may be discussed at various revolution councils. As far as I know, no (?written) proposal has yet reached me in this regard. But the representatives may have given something to the minister of state concerned.

What is a definite fact, however, is that the old constitution provided the religious minorities with the right to be respected and the right to live and to other rights. The new Islamic republican constitution will not only not be regressive but will most certainly provide them with even more rights in terms of their participation in the country's affairs. In other words, they will have a better deal. This is what I personally believe, and Ayatollah Khomeyni, too, has frequently stressed to the government his protection of, friendship with and interest in religious minorities.

The second question by the Voice of America concerns the manner in which the constituent assembly will be elected and how many voters will be required to elect one delegate.

Regulations governing this have not yet been worked out. I cannot say nothing about this at the moment.

The AP news agency correspondent, Mr Parviz Ra'in--contrary to his customary practice he has this time submitted a very brief question; perhaps he has several supplementary questions tucked away in his pocket for future use [laughter]--well, his question is this: for some time now there has been certain propaganda material published in the foreign press--oh, I see, this is one of those loaded questions [laughter] including a report that two AP correspondents have been arrested in Gonbad-e Kavus and that nothing has been heard from them for 3 days now; in addition, a UPI correspondent has been beaten up.

Well, there have been some disturbances there. So far we have succeeded in reaching certain agreements and in bringing about a cease-fire. The army has also intervened in support of restoring the police and the gendarmerie to their duties and in support of the people. No report has yet been supplied in this regard. As a matter of course, the mission dispatched by the Interior Ministry will also look into this matter as well. If those concerned complain to the mission, the situation, God willing, will improve for them.

Question by Austrian newspaper [name indistinct] the first question concerns the outcome of the referendum.

Well, as he has observed, the outcome of the referendum has been extremely satisfactory. It was, perhaps, rare or unprecedented in the world. Accurate and detailed figures relating to the referendum will be made available to the press, probably today or tomorrow.

The second question by the Austrian paper relates to the constitution which is currently under study and about when the new government will come to power.

Well, the answer to this is very clear. The constitution should first be formulated, a constituent assembly convened and representatives be elected in accordance with the constitution, and then there will be a well-established government as distinct from a provisional government.

The Austrian paper's other question is: What would be the position of opposition groups in the new government? Would leftist groups have any role to play in the new government itself, whatever that may be.

There is a question here concerning unemployment and the country's economy. As this has also been asked by one of the agencies I answer it now [no answer heard].

Dr Iraj Moqarrab, [word indistinct] German newspaper, has asked: Will you expand your cooperation with the PLO? Yes. [passage indistinct containing exchange with audience, referring to Baader-Meinhoff group] All we know about this group is that it is a terrorist group. We will have nothing to do with terrorists, whether domestic or foreign, whether for us or against us.

Mr Mehdi Khamush from PARS NEWS AGENCY has asked: It is said that there are still not hundreds but thousands of U.S. military advisers serving in the Iranian Army. Could you give us some information in this regard?

Well, for one thing there aren't thousands or even hundreds of U.S. military advisers; there are only a few left.

Of course, the government so far has neither cut off its ties with the U.S. Government with regard to military and economic experts nor has it confirmed anything. These are some of the problems which, unfortunately, we have not yet had a chance to sort out individually, to look into all the projects and contracts to be able to state which one is useful to us and which one is not, and to determine how many people we need with regard to the useful projects or what they should be doing. Of course, there have been discussions in general terms with their ambassador to the effect that, of course, many of the projects are not in keeping with our objectives except [words indistinct]. However, we are reviewing the situation.

The PARS NEWS AGENCY also asks whether Iran will take part in the nonalined summit conference, and that since the conference is to be held in the Cuban capital whether we will have diplomatic relations with that country.

This matter was discussed last week with His Excellency Dr Sanjabi, the foreign minister. It seems that the previous governments made no definite decisions with regard to nonalined countries one way or another; that is, Iranian foreign policy has neither been against nonalined countries nor has it made any commitments vis-a-vis these countries. One thing that can be said is that his excellency the Yugoslav president, whose envoy was here some time ago, unofficially expressed his interest and extended an invitation, but the issue is not completely clear yet to the Foreign Ministry or to the office of the prime minister. So, at the moment we have no objections to nonalined countries, but we have not agreed to anything or made any commitments. It has been decided that the Foreign Ministry should obtain the charter, objectives and ideologies to study and decide on the matter later.

KEYHAN newspaper's question: Why doesn't the government officially and clearly declare its views on the question of autonomy in Iran?

The government can announce a plan in this respect and ask for comments and views in this regard from the ethnic minorities. This plan can then be submitted to the constituent assembly after the necessary study and thus prevent a civil war. Actually, this is something we have done through another decree. We have stated that the events which took place in Kordestan or Baluchestan or--actually there were no events, just some talking and words--or the events that occurred in Gonbad-e Kavus or even in Kordestan where a delegation headed by Mr Foruhar was dispatched--first of all we said that autonomy would in no way be acceptable if it means separatism and the elimination of national leadership and Iranian sovereignty. But if it means having options and responsibilities and managing local affairs, then this is something to be accepted and welcomed, which is something more than what the old constitution determined by designating municipal and provincial councils. Second, autonomy in any sense in which we understand it--even in its acceptable sense--would not be exclusively for one particular area only. Its nature, its characteristics, its limits as to what affairs should be 100 percent the responsibility of the central government, and what affairs should be left to the local governments; and what matters in what proportion should be either the responsibility of the central government or the local governments--this must definitely include every locality everywhere. It should in no way be a prerogative of, for example, the Turks, Arabs, and so forth.

These are all under study and we have asked them to submit their views, and some have done so.

A number of people came from Kordestan just 2 days ago. They submitted certain views first to Imam Khomeyni, and a copy was given to me, which I immediately passed to the high council on revolutionary projects. In any case, the difference between our view and that of the KEYHAN newspaper is that we are waiting for minorities to submit their views and demands, so that this council can study them in order to reach a unified formula. Then both this matter and the other highlights and the issue of the constitution will definitely be make public prior to any debates by the constituent assembly, so that the people can once again have the opportunity to comment either directly or through the delegates they will elect to the constituent assembly.

A question was asked about Iran's economy.

Iran's economy is not something unsolvable. It is not a knot. Nothing like that. After a revolution--any revolution, especially our revolution, which was accompanied by industrial strikes, and it can be said that during these strikes the economic activity of the country both in the state and the private sector stopped completely, or if not 100 percent, then 80 percent--to make reparations and to bring the economy back into proper focus is no simple matter. It is a difficult problem. It requires both activity, thinking and proper action, as well as the acceptance of these problems and deprivations by the people. We are on both these paths and moving forward, and it can be said that the impasse in which the people found themselves at the time of the change of regime has been eliminated. The private sector has resumed activities in the bazaar and in the streets. The export of oil was the major problem, and it has been resumed; and our delegates have returned from Geneva conferences this week and certain resolutions were made in Vienna, Austria, by OPEC, and our customers are coming back to us.

The railroad has resumed operations. Naturally, the private sector had many problems; the workers had not been receiving any salaries. We helped them, and a major portion of these workers' salaries have been paid.

[Question from audience] Excuse me, do you mean the private sector?

[Answer] Yes, the private sector. And more funds have been allocated to the Ministry of Roads and the Ministry of Housing and Construction so that they can pay those contractors who have claims with the government. This way the workers' salaries can be paid, and also certain projects can be resumed. As far as I know one or two of these projects had already been started by last Thursday, and the remaining ones, I hope, will start soon, and I hope by 20 April there will be action, especially in road construction and buildings. And most of them should be in the provinces; they should start from the provinces and come toward Tehran.

It is envisaged by the responsible authorities that at least 1 million workers can be hired both directly in the construction field and in those areas dealing with construction materials and supplies. These factories had problems; they do not have the necessary raw materials, they did not have a market because everything was closed. They did not have the workers; they did not pay the workers.

And furthermore, to receive and release their goods from customs, as well as to order the raw materials, they had to deposit large sums of money with customs or with banks. Action has been taken in this respect as well; for example, they were exempted from payment of storage fees at the customs warehouses during the 3-month period of strikes. They were also exempted from paying fines for delays. Furthermore, they were given extra time to make their payments to customs. Also, the Central Bank will issue new instructions to private banks to facilitate the import of new commodities. So some of the factories and industries have resumed operation.

Small industries were able to start operating sooner, because their machinery was not too complicated or very heavy. As for the larger industries, they have been provided with certain facilities; they have been provided with loans through the Chamber of Commerce. But there are some very large institutions, which belonged either directly or indirectly to the royal family, or their owners are outside Iran and are not here, but their products and output belong to Iran and their workers and employees are Iranians, and we cannot let them go unemployed. Certain teams and groups have been assigned to them to look into such cases and to put these large industries in order. In any case, this huge wheel of the economy of the country has started to turn again. And in certain sectors it has achieved its goal, and in some other areas, I hope it will soon resume operation. Actually, we do not have any complicated or unsolved problems. And I hope we shall be successful.

[Question from audience] About the unfinished projects.

As for the unfinished projects, as long as they can be handled by Iranian personnel, so much the better. If we should need foreign personnel, we will not oppose it in principle. And I hope if they do come here, they will also enjoy the necessary safety and security.

Mr [name indistinct] from Pakistan has asked how long will the provisional government stay in power.

For the time being we are in power.

CAPUCCI: KHOMEYNI PLANS MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

LD031730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Archbishop Capucci, who is on a visit to Iran, said today Ayatollah Khomeyni envisages holding a conference in Iran with the participation of Muslims and Christians. Archbishop Capucci, who used [as heard] to head the Catholic Church in Jerusalem, was sent to prison in 1974 accused of smuggling arms for the Palestinians and was in an Israeli jail until last year. Speaking at a press conference Archbishop Capucci dwelt on the importance of Jerusalem. He pointed out that Jerusalem is the heart of Palestine and that no one could continue life without a heart. The archbishop added: Palestine without Jerusalem is worthless. The leader of the Catholic Church in Jerusalem called on other countries to follow Iran's example in backing the aspiration of Palestine. He accused international Zionism, imperialism and their agents of falsely attempting to portray the Iranian revolution as reactionary and racist.

POLISARIO DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TEHRAN ON WORKING VISIT

LD031454 Algiers APS in English 1033 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, 3 Apr (APS)--A POLISARIO delegation led by Mr. Mohamed Syadati, Saharan state minister, and Mr. Ould Ziou, justice minister, arrived Monday at Tehran on a work visit.

A Saharan delegation also led by POLISARIO Deputy Secretary General Mr. Mustapha Sayed was received last February by Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Iranian foreign affairs minister, Mr. Karim Sanjabi, and high officials.

MINISTRY CITES ATTACK ON VOTERS IN KUWAIT, DENIES DEATHS

LD031424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement denying a report in AYANDEGAN on 3 April on bloody clashes and killing of Iranians residing in Kuwait during the referendum. The Foreign Ministry statement describes the incident as follows:

During polling at the Iranian Islamic Republic's Embassy in Kuwait, a group of about 100 people armed with stones and truncheons attacked voters. As a result, 16 people were wounded and 1 person was hospitalized because of severe injuries. The latter has reportedly recovered and left the hospital. Thus the news of five Iranians being killed in Kuwait is not true.

MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON 1 APR TEHRAN 'DISRUPTION'

LD031230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued by the Interior Ministry today:

Your Excellency Mohammad Tavakoli, the mayor of Tehran: It has been reported that a number of counterrevolutionary elements caused disruption to the running of affairs on Sunday, 1 April 1979, by causing chaos. Undoubtedly, revolutionary measures to improve the situation in offices and institutions are provoking a number of idle and corrupt people to unavailing and tumultuous struggles. While we decisively endorse your excellency's personal efforts and the measures and statements you have already adopted, we strongly condemn the counterrevolutionary act of these troublemakers, and those who incited it will be prosecuted.

[Signed] Ahmad Sadr Haj-Seyyed-Javadi, interior minister.

TEHRAN MAYOR APPEALS TO MUNICIPAL STAFF

LD031232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Excerpts] The following statement was issued by Tehran municipality today:

In the Almighty's name, following the chaos caused by a number of counterrevolutionary elements or people whose unlawful interests have been endangered through provoking the hard-working municipal employees on Sunday, 1 April, at the main building of Tehran municipality, I ask all the honest and hard-working staff of Tehran municipality to pay attention to the following:

Rumors, devoid of truth--such as a decision to expel 2,300 members of the municipal staff--have been spread in order to provoke the municipal staff. So far, only 40 members of the municipal staff have been given orders relieving them of their duties, 20 of whom are senior officers and retired colonels who received, in the capacity of senior advisers to the mayor, salaries of 5,000-15,000 tumans. Eight people who had served for over 30 years were retired according to regulations. Ten advisers and one director-general who were not needed were put at the disposal of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in accordance with the Cabinet council's resolution. Ten members of the property records department staff who were superfluous were put at the disposal of the employment section in order to be transferred to other places where they may be needed. Naturally, all those who are put at the disposal of the employment section will receive their full salaries and rights until they are assigned a new post.

The honest and hard-working staff of the municipality is worthy of full respect and for the time being, in view of the country's economic conditions, in order to meet their needs, the minimum salary and benefits' scale which all staff members and workers will be entitled to receive has been set at 25,000 rials, and this will soon be announced.

The Tehran mayor will decisively continue his reform measures until the entire cadre of the municipality has been purged and decent and people-serving individuals who are motivated to serve the people are appointed; undoubtedly, the experienced and hard-working staff of Tehran municipality will have priority in this direction. Wherever people outside the municipality have been utilized, as soon as appropriate individuals within the municipality are identified, they will replace the people from outside.

Finally, I expect all municipal staff members to pay attention to the above and the current sensitive conditions in the country, preserve their revolutionary discretion and nip in the bud all counterrevolutionary plots through their honest services.

[Signed] Mohammad Tavakoli, Mayor of Tehran.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON RETIREMENT OF GENERALS, KHUZESTAN

LD031312 Tehran Domestic Service In Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] At a press briefing today, the government spokesman told our correspondent Abdolreza Dorri that a cease-fire has been in effect in Gonbad-e Kavus since 1500 yesterday. Representatives of the government and the imam are engaged in negotiations with selected groups of Turkomen brothers to solve this region's problems.

In answering the questions of both domestic and foreign correspondents, Mr Abbas Amir Entezam denied the recent remarks made by the minister of national defense on preventing the retirement of the army's senior officers. He stated: Based on a decree of the Council of Ministers, army officers from the rank of brigadier general on up will retire. If there should be a need for the expertise of some of them in restructuring the army, they might possibly be invited to serve again.

The spokesman added: General Riyahi was not aware of the decree of the Council of Ministers, and thus made remarks on this subject. But the Council of Ministers had already decided on the question of retiring the generals in the armed forces.

Regarding the level of the nation's agricultural production for this year, the spokesman stated: Based on the report presented to the Council of Ministers by the minister of agriculture, this year's crop and agricultural production should exceed previous years, and we hope not to face any shortage in agricultural production.

One of the reporters asked: It has been reported that there is a plot underway in Khuzestan. Could you give some explanation of this matter?"

Amir Entezam said: A number of counterrevolutionaries did start rumors of separation. Fortunately, as a result of steps taken by the government and our Arab-speaking Iranian brothers, the plots have not been carried out.

With regard to the government's actions in Khuzestan, the spokesman stated: The army in Khuzestan has been reinforced. The intelligence apparatus should uncover any and all types of plots and report them, so that the government can neutralize them.

Regarding the role of a president in the future political arena of the country, Amir Entezam said: The principal stage-manager in the future political arena of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be the president.

In another part of his press briefing, the government spokesman said: The government protects the private sector in order to start the wheels of the nation's economy moving. But this, naturally, refers to those who have gained their wealth in a proper way. As far as those industrial magnates who have improperly accumulated their wealth, the revolutionary courts will make the necessary decisions.

With regard to the process of receiving people's comments on the constitution, the government spokesman said: Those with opinions who can write can express their view through the mass communications media. On the other hand, people can make their personal views available to the government directly so that they can be studied.

With regard to the fate of the factories and plants manufacturing alcoholic beverages, Abbas Amir Entezam said: The production of alcoholic beverages is considered taboo under Islam. Therefore, the owners of such plants should start thinking about transforming their plants--at the least possible cost--for the production of nonalcoholic and legal beverages.

INTERIOR MINISTRY ISSUES MESSAGE ON GONBAD-E KAVUS

LD031442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] This morning, the members of the delegation sent by the Ministry of Interior to Gonbad-e Kavus sent a message addressed to the people of Gonbad-e Kavus. It is pointed out in this message:

Struggling Muslims of Gonbad-e Kavus, now that the satanic designs of the enemies of Iran and the new nation to disrupt the solidarity and unity of the people and kindle the blaze of religious war have been exposed, we warn all the valiant Muslim people of the region that agents linked to the previous regime and their supporters, such as officials of the dissolved SAVAK and Hojabr Yazdani [a well-known wealthy figure] as well as mercenary agents are attempting to create disunity and fratricide among the solidly united people of the region through waging an unwanted war and resorting to issues involving Shi'ite and Sunni, Turkoman and Farsi, in an effort to blemish the informed and committed leadership of the imam.

It is an obligation of all alert and struggling people of the region to foil these ominous plots of the enemy through their revolutionary awareness and discretion, and once again deal a decisive blow to the enemies of the heroic Iranian people.

The message emphasizes in conclusion that in order to establish a peaceful atmosphere free of conflict and give immediate and principled consideration to the righteous wishes of the hard-working people of this land, it is the duty of all brothers and sisters of Gonbad-e Kavus to assist the Government of Islamic Revolution in its important tasks by helping in the implementation of the decisions of the Interior Ministry delegation.

Death to the treacherous plots of the reactionaries linked to the satanic Pahlavi regime! Long live the unity and solidarity of the people of Gonbad-e Kavus.

SUNNI DENIES RELIGIOUS RIFT CAUSE OF GONBAD TROUBLES

LD032208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] According to a dispatch from our correspondent in Gonbad-e Kavus, following yesterday's agreement between the two sides involved in clashes in the area, and three violations of the cease-fire, calm has been established in the city, which, thanks to the efforts of the people, is gradually returning to normal. According to our correspondent's dispatch, the Iranian National Army's forces are controlling security in the city.

Dr 'Ali Rasuli, a member of the government delegation sent to the Gonbad-e Kavus area, in an interview with our correspondent today, said: The two sides involved in clashes are giving up their barricades to the army forces and the latter, assisted by the people, are busy cleaning up the city and removing the barricades.

His Eminence 'Abdolaziz Molavi, the religious leader of our Sunni brothers from Sistan and Baluchestan, who has also gone to this city leading a delegation made up of other Sunni religious leaders to try to solve the differences between the Gonbad-e Kavus people, said in an interview with our correspondent: Thank God the government has succeeded in establishing a cease-fire in the city. The two sides, as well as evacuating the barricades, have agreed to release the prisoners they kept in custody. His eminence added: The Gonbad-e Kavus disturbances were organized by SAVAK operatives, a bunch of oppressive adventurers and colonialist agents, whose interests in this area are endangered. The people were then made to understand that this quarrel was one of Sunnis and Shi'ites, whereas such an issue never arose. His Eminence 'Abdolaziz Molavi counseled all the inhabitants of Gonbad-e Kavus and its environs not to be deceived by foreigners, colonialist agents and individuals whose interests are endangered, and to maintain their security and calm.

TEHRAN-GONBAD-E KAVUS TELEPHONE LINK RESTORED

LD031404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] According to reports, the Tehran-Gonbad-e Kavus telephone facilities, which were out of order last week because of a technical fault, have been repaired and are now ready for use. The compatriots can contact Gonbad-e Kavus, should they need to.

Calm Reportedly Restored

LD041158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Apr 79 LD

[Text] According to PARS News Agency report, following the abandoning of barricades by the parties engaged in clashes in Gonbad-e Kavus, complete calm has been restored in the city. People from other regions and the surrounding towns of Gonbad-e Kavus came to visit their relatives and friends in the city last night and today. Forces of the Iranian National Army are now in control of the situation in Gonbad-e Kavus. A number of the city's shops are open today, particularly bakeries and butcher shops, and the people are buying their necessities in the market.

According to PARS, members of the delegation sent by the Interior Ministry and the governor general of Mazandaran are engaged in talks in Gonbad-e Kavus to release prisoners taken by both sides in the clashes and find a solution for the existing difficulties, and are studying the proposals and wishes of the people of the city. A number of prisoners from both sides have already been released and measures are underway concerning the rest of the prisoners. At present Gonbad-e Kavus is completely calm and people are moving normally throughout the city.

FIGHTING BREAKS OUT NEAR KERMANSHAHAN OIL REFINERY

LD031244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 79 LD

[Text] PARS has announced that at 0200 today a number of unidentified people started shooting in the vicinity of the Kermanshahan oil refinery. Revolution guards and fighters returned the fire. The shooting and machinegun fire lasted for about 2 hours.

NVOI WELCOMES REFERENDUM RESULT, PRAISES IRAN'S OPEC STAND

TA021435 [Editorial Report TA] (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 30 March carries a commentary stressing the importance of the referendum. The commentary begins by scoring "the shah's bloodthirsty regime." It says that "this despotic regime, which completely dominated the life, property and honor of a great freedom-loving nation," collapsed "under the blows of the democratic revolution." It says of the shah: "This criminal shed the blood of thousands of our fatherland's distinguished sons, and sold Iran to his overseas masters led by U.S. imperialists." The commentary then refers to the referendum and says: "In the full sense of the word these are festive days which are being celebrated in Tehran and in all other cities and in all of the country's villages."

The commentary says: "In Iran's magnificent history today is the day on which the country's political system and structure will be decided by the people freely. Millions of Iranians have gone to the polling stations to vote with great enthusiasm for the establishment of an Islamic republic." The commentary stresses that "Iranians are voting to rid the country of despotism and of subjugation to U.S. imperialism and to other imperialist countries and to make it fully independent," and that "for years on end the nation has fought and made sacrifices for the establishment of a government born of national and popular will."

The radio then carries a commentary urging the Iranians to maintain vigilance against antirevolutionary remnants of the shah's regime.

It labels the shah and his supporters as "snakes," and warns that "one should be vigilant and fight the enemies of the revolution with a revolutionary spirit," because "experience has shown that enemies of the revolution will not surrender to the nation of their own free will."

The Azerbaijani broadcast at 1745 GMT on 31 March carries a commentary welcoming the result of the referendum. But before doing so the commentary again scores the Pahlavi dynasty and the shah. The commentary says: "The last shah of the 2,500 year old regime, Muhammad Reza, has escaped from his homeland fearing the hatred and the wrath of the Iranian people; but there is no place where he can take refuge from the nation's hand of revenge." The commentary then says that "the shah's supporters and blood-shedding SAVAKists are panicking like wounded snakes and condemned wolves, but their panic will only speed up their death." Referring to the referendum the commentary says: "Iran's struggling and free people have demonstrated to the entire world their historic hostility toward the defunct monarchic regime." The commentary says: "The Iranian nation has voted for the establishment of a republican regime. This is a great national and historic victory."

The radio then carries a commentary stressing the peasants' role in the revolution. The commentary says that peasants will also benefit from the revolution's achievements. The commentary praises the peasants' unselfish participation in the revolutionary struggle and stresses the importance of "unity and solidarity between the workers and peasants" in insuring the realization of revolutionary aspirations.

The radio then carries a commentary on the OPEC meeting in Geneva. The commentary says: "The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, has completed its work in Geneva. In spite of the objections from Saudi Arabian delegate Zaki Yamani, OPEC adopted steps which will serve member countries' interests." After noting that Yamani proposed that the selling price of oil be increased by only 3 percent on 1 April and that this was rejected thanks to strong opposition by the other members, and especially by the Iranian delegate, the commentary concludes: "Thus, as was expected, our nation's delegation acted faithfully and in accordance with the Iranian nation's interests and sovereignty along with OPEC countries' interests. He did so by opposing one of the conspiracies which the oil cartel tries to implement through its agents such as Zaki Yamani."

AFGHANISTAN

AMIN DENIES SOVIET ADVISERS FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN

BK031617 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 3 Apr 79 BK

[By Pierre le Gall]

[Text] Kabul, 3 Apr (AFP)--Prime Minister Hafizollah Amin today repeated his attack on alleged "imperialist" support for Afghan rebels and denied that Soviet officers were involved in putting down the rebellion.

Speaking to Western reporters, he said: We are careful about mentioning countries" but said his government had proof of armed "imperialist involvement in the conspiracy against our revolution."

The involvement concerned uprisings in the Herat region and in eastern Afghanistan. It "was absolutely false," he added, that Soviet pilots were flying Afghan Army helicopters in anti-rebel operations.

A Russian had been killed in Herat, but he was an engineer at a textile factory.

Mr Amin also denied reports that there were 2,000 Soviet military advisers in Afghanistan. There were a total of 1,900 foreign advisers, of which 1,100 were Soviet. This included Soviet military advisers.

The high proportion of Russian advisers was explained by the salaries they received: 300 to 500 dollars a month, against the monthly 1,000, 2,000 or even 6,000 dollars asked for by Westerners.

Mr Amin attacked the role of "religious reactionaries" in the rebellion. It was totally false that the government was anti-Islam, for which it had "deep respect," he said.

There were about 1,400 political prisoners, including mullahs. But the government distinguished between those religious dignitaries who did not support it and those who did. To the latter it held out its hand.

On relations with Washington, which have worsened since the assassination in February of United States Ambassador to Kabul Adolph Dubs, Mr Amin said the deterioration was the fault of the U.S., not Afghanistan.

On relations with Pakistan, Mr Amin admitted difficulties arising from the persistence of the frontier problem caused by the division of Baluchi Territory, but [words indistinct] we want a friendly and fraternal discussion with Pakistan."

He denied that his government was giving military training to Baluchi refugees.

On the ideology of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party, he said it was a working-class party but not a Marxist-Leninist one.

"We feel that our party is a part of the international working class movement", he said.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

BK031339 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 2 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan:

Afghanistan, in pursuance of her progressive and peaceful foreign policy, has consistently struggled against an (?unjust) peace in the Middle East and has strongly supported and supports the struggle of the Arab people and the heroic people of Palestine for the freedom of the occupied Arab land and the restoration of their usurped rights.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan earnestly believes that durable and just peace can be insured in the Middle East only when the aggressive people of Israel, which rely on imperialism and continue the occupation of Arab territories and have refused to restore rights of the Palestinian people, should immediately and without any conditions vacate the occupied Arab land and to restore the legal rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent Palestinian state for them.

While the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan considers the people of Palestine as the nucleus of the eternal problems in the Middle East, we believe that for any peaceful effort and endeavor for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East, all interested sides, including the Palestinian Liberation Organization, as the only real representative of the people of Palestine, shall participate with equal rights.

Based on this principle, in the view of Afghanistan the so-called recent agreement between Anwar as-Sadat and Menahem Begin about the Middle East, which has been considered by many of [words indistinct] and progressive forces of the world as conspiratorial understanding against the rights of the peoples of Arab and Palestine, results in further aggravation of the situation in the Middle East and is nothing more than a conspiracy.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan believes that the recent agreement between Egypt and Israel in the Middle East has to a great extent denied the possibilities which existed for insuring of peace, a durable and just peace in the Middle East. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan firmly condemns the conspiratorial efforts jointly taken up by imperialism, Zionism and international reaction, weakening the unity and solidarity of the Arab people and the creation of obstacles in the way of the victory of the struggles of the Palestinian people and reiterates once again its solidarity and (?brotherhood) of the toiling people of Afghanistan for the people and the progressive forces of Arabs and the struggling people of Palestine.

It is on this basis that it welcomes the resolutions of the recent gatherings of the foreign and finance ministers of the Arab countries held in Baghdad and believes that the peoples of Arab and Palestine can forge unity against their joint enemy and their conspiracies [words indistinct] and defense, aspiration, unity and [words indistinct].

INDIA

VAJPAYEE 30 MAR ADDRESS ON JAPAN, CHINA

BK311613 Delhi ISI in English 1430 GMT 31 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee, giving the inaugural address on 30 March at Delhi University on "National Seminar on Contemporary Japan and China", said: I understand that the objective of these seminars is to bring together experts available in this country to consider contemporary developments and policies of Japan and China--two countries who play important roles on the international stage. As fellow Asians, it is in our interest for such subjects to be periodically discussed.

The foreign minister said: It is of course commonplace to stress that India's cultural links with these two leading countries of east Asia--as indeed with other countries in South and Southeast Asia which are geographically closer to us--date back several centuries. While this in itself is no doubt an important and undeniable historical fact the challenge posed to us today is to see how, on the basis of these ancient contacts and mutual appreciation of the mainspring of each other's civilization, we can try and identify the areas of mutually beneficial interaction as are appropriate ina rapidly changing contemporary world.

It would of course, not be correct to speak of the diverse relations which India enoys with Japan and the undoubted potential in this relationship in the same breath as India's relations with China, which have their own history of vicissltudes, ups and downs. What may be said as a general proposition is that in line with India's nonalignment we have followed a policy of improving our relations with all countries on the basis of beneficial bilateralism in conformity with our basic principles, policies and our enlightened national interests.

With Japan, in my very first foreign policy statement in Parliament soon after the general elections 2 years ago, I had placed some emphasis on recognising the vitality and importance of Japan, something which we had been slow in doing in the past. Almost coincidentally it was announced in Tokyo that the previous foreign minister, Hatoyama, was planning to visit India in the summer of 1977. One may take this as an implicit recognition that Japan, too, realised tne need to take a deeper interest than she had hitherto taken in the forgoing of closer relations with India. The visit of Hatoyama was the first such high level visit from Japan in a period of 7 years. On that occasion, we decided that the foreign ministers of India and Japan would meet annually for consultations. In pursuance of this decision I visited Japan in August 1978. We now anticipate a visit by Foreign Minister Sonoda to India in the near future to continue these annual consultations. These consultations are based on a shared recognition that improvement of political, economic and, indeed, the many sided relations between India and Japan would contribute to the broader picture of Asian harmony and progress.

The minister of external affairs said: I have a feeling that we in India have not devoted sufficient resources to understanding the dynamics of Japan's spectacular growth and its present role and potential on the contemporary international state. While her economic and technological growth--an object of our admiration--puts her far ahead of other Asian countries and within the top echelons of developed countries we also feel that geographical and economic interdependence firmly links Japan's political fortunes with those of her Asian neighbours.

In that sense Japan has an important role to play in the creation, through cooperative efforts and international negotiations, of a just and equitable economic order. While we acknowledge Japan's cooperation in India's economic and technological growth and that she is a significant partner in our effort to develop self-reliance, we must together endeavour to achieve in Japan a better understanding of India's capacity for partnership in setting up joint ventures in third countries in the Asian region and elsewhere. On Japan's side, too, the greater the interest she shows in the problems of the developing countries and the greater her sensitivity to the needs of her Asian neighbours, the more effective will be her capacity to undertake the political role that their economic resurgence would entitle her.

As for China, all of us are no doubt familiar with the contemporary history of India's relations with that country. It is of great importance for us in India to try and understand the precise nature of the changes that have and are taking place in China since the passing from the scene of Mao Zedong. What do these changes portend for China herself? What is the likely impact of these changes in terms of her external policies? What are the chances of success in her current drive toward modernisation? And what effect would this have on others? Underlying some of these questions is the larger question of whether in the foreseeable future China's external policies will eventually contribute meaningfully to the framework of a cooperative international order which we, along with others, would like to see emerge. In this context, what would be the future course of the development of India's relations with China, given the parameters of our domestic and external policies. Here I must add that with the passage of time and cold objectivity there is a growing body of opinion which is no longer pessimistic about the chances of success of the Indian model of development. The question whether China may in fact have something to learn from our developmental experience may no longer be irrelevant.

The answers to the questions I have posed would largely depend upon what ultimate notion our country is going to form of China. The determination of our national perception of that country, the most populous in Asia and indeed the world, would be China's own view of the world, the attitudes and policies it adopts towards its neighbours and its responses to the global urge for cooperation and interdependence. Our understanding of China would also be determined by the extent to which it is willing to reconcile its intense nationalism with international constraints and obligations.

It has often been said that China with its massive military strength and daunting dimensions is something of a strategic riddle to its neighbours and to others in Asia. Its recent behaviour in Indochina has served only to reinforce such apprehensions. On the other hand, there are people who believe that assumptions of coercive Chinese diplomacy are less threatening and less disrupting than the prospect of a modernised economic giant driving smaller and less resourceful countries of Asia out of the markets of the world.

I would like to submit that for an accurate assessment of China's future role, regional as well as global, it is of utmost importance to study the magnitude of the problem posed by the two views I have just outlined. We cannot afford to make a mistake in this regard. A misperception may easily throw us into the adoption by the country of attitudes that could prove extremely costly and irretrievable.

I do not claim to have reached a stage in our analysis of these developments as to say that we are able to perceive them fully. For a fuller comprehension we would look forward to hearing what traditional China watchers have to say.

It may be gratuitous to repeat that a fundamental tenet of our foreign policy is respect for the legitimate interests of other sovereign nations. In the exercise of our independent judgement on international issues it does not harm or disrupt the peaceful developmental efforts of others and does not interfere with their domestic preoccupations.

I wish to say that we would like the same criterion to be applied by nations in their international behaviour. No single country can or should appropriate to itself the right to pass value judgements on others or proceed to correct them on their allegedly errant behaviour. Noninterference in the internal affairs of others is not only a noble principle but is also pragmatic and its violation has a painful effect on the peace and stability of nations.

Farm from playing this or that "card" in a global power game our approach is based on the principles of bilateral cooperation with all countries, irrespective of different economic and social systems and on the firm belief that our cooperation with any country should not in any way impede the development of our relations with any third country. Only such an approach, we believe, would move the world away from tensions and confrontations which unfortunately exist in various parts of the world and especially in Southeast Asia.

The minister of external affairs concluded: We are living in a changing world and no foreign policy can be rigid but must be dynamic and flexible. In the name of flexibility, however, we cannot be time servers but must stick to certain principles.

DESAI: TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY CHINA MUST BE RESTORED

BK011613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Morarji Desai has declared that India will never give up her right to her territories seized by China. Addressing a public meeting organized by the Janata Party at Shavaji Park in Bombay today, the prime minister said India's relations with other countries, particularly with her neighbors, were never so good as they are today. He said China has extended her hand of cooperation to resolve the dispute between the two countries and to forge friendly relations. He said India has also responded to China's gesture but this does not mean that we have given up our right to our territories held by China. There should be no doubt that these territories have to be restored to India.

The prime minister referred to improving relations with Pakistan and hoped that all the irritants and hurdles among the countries in this region will be completely removed in the next 4 or 5 years so that the people of these countries will not even require passports and visas.

Mr Desai also said that Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin's recent visit to India has further strengthened the friendship between the two countries. He said India's prestige in the community of nations has gone up since the Janata Party came to power.

Explaining the philosophy behind the priority given to rural development, Mr Desai said that the progress achieved by the country in the industrial field in past had not benefitted 80 percent of our people who live in the rural areas.

This does not mean that the government is neglecting large-scale industries. On the contrary, Mr Desai said, the government has taken measures to strengthen them.

The meeting began with the prayer for the speedy recovery of Mr Jayprakash Narayan.

Later the prime minister left for New Delhi.

RAM NOTES GROWING U.S.-PRC-PAKISTAN RELATIONSHIP

BK030818 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The deputy prime minister and defense minister, Mr Jagjivan Ram, told the Lok Sabha today that any military build-up in the neighboring countries is naturally a matter of concern to India.

In a written reply the minister said that the government are aware of the developing pattern of relationship between Pakistan, China and the United States as well as other countries of the world.

KUNDU SPEAKS ON REGIONAL RELATIONS TO LOK SABHA

BK310942 Delhi ISI in English 0839 GMT 31 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Minister of State for External Affairs Samarendra Kundu expressed the hope that India's bilateral and sub-regional relations would lead to greater cooperation among the Asian nations, reports AIR [ALL-INDIA RADIO]. Intervening in the debate on the demand for grants for external affairs in the Lok Sabha he said India had always and would continue to work for closer economic ties among the nations in Asia. The minister of state added that the country's cooperation with Vietnam and the member countries of Asia would be further strengthened. In this connection, he pointed out that India had given aid worth about 900 million rupees for the reconstruction and developmental programmes in Vietnam. He assured the members that India would continue to pursue a policy of genuine non-alignment.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER BARRE ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

BK010835 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Somali Foreign Minister Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre arrived in New Delhi today after a night's halt in Bombay. Dr Barre, who is accompanied by his wife, is on a 5-day official visit.

Among those who received them at the airport were External Affairs Minister Vajpayee and diplomats and high dignitaries.

Welcoming Dr Barre, Mr Vajpayee said that relations between the two countries go back centuries. Both have fought against foreign domination, both are nonalined and stand for peace and close cooperation.

Dr Barre said that his talks will cover bilateral relations and international situation, particularly the nonalined movement.

Vajpayee Dinner

BK020315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 79 BK

[Text] India and Somalia have called for the maintainance of the unity and cohesiveness of the nonalined movement.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Somali foreign affairs minister, Dr Barre, in New Delhi last night, the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, reaffirmed India's commitment to resolve disputes by peaceful negotiations. Referring to Southern Africa, Mr Vajpayee expressed India's determination to support the freedom struggle there. He said that both India and Somalia are in favor of a new international economic order, free from domination by any country.

In his reply, Dr Barre appreciated India's stand on the liberation struggles in Africa. He expressed concern over the situation in the Horn of Africa and said that Somalia believed that a just and lasting solution to this question can be found by the people concerned without outside interference.

Dr Barre said his visit is primarily aimed at strengthening existing Indo-Somali ties and looking into the possibilities of further cooperation between the two countries.

INDIA SEEKS SOVIET ADVICE ON AMBITIOUS CANAL SCHEME

BK030917 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister disclosed in the Lok Sabha today that he had sought Soviet help in examining the feasibility of the Garland Canal scheme. The scheme, which is to link the major rivers of India, is expected to cost 150 to 200 billion rupees. Mr Desai was replying to the debate on the Planning Ministry's demands. The House later voted the demands after rejecting all cut motions.

Mr Desai said the Government has been examining carefully the ambitious canal scheme, which can solve not only the problems of floods and drought in many parts of the country, but would also provide employment to a large number of people. The government has also sought the help of Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Bank in investigating how far this scheme is practicable.

VAJPAYEE HOLDS TALKS WITH CUBAN MINISTER

BK040356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The Cuban Minister for Science and Technology, Prof Marinello Vidaurretta, called on the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee. Professor Vidaurretta, who is visiting India as a special envoy of President Castro, told Mr Vajpayee that he had brought an invitation to the prime minister, Mr Desai, to attend the nonalined summit in Havana in September this year.

Mr Vajpayee said that India attaches considerable importance to the Havana summit, and every effort will be made to make the conference a success. He also told Professor Vidaurretta that India was greatly impressed by achievements of Cuban people in various spheres.

CARTER SAYS INDIAN NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS ADEQUATE

BK040334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Apr 79 BK

[Text] President Carter has said that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has taken the right action by approving shipment of fuel to India.

Addressing a news conference in Washington, he said that he considers the assurances of the Indian Government to be adequate. Replying to a question, he said he finds it difficult to talk about containing nuclear proliferation with Mr Desai as the United States has not yet restrained the spread of nuclear weapons.

PRIME MINISTER DESAI MAKES NATIONWIDE RADIO-TV ADDRESS

BK030932 Delhi ISI in English 0834 GMT 3 Apr 79 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Morarji Desai said on 2 April that it had been the endeavour of his government to see that the administration gave proper protection to all and removed the fear of oppression so that everybody worked with confidence not only for the fulfillment of his own purpose but also in consonance with a happy human society. Desai, addressing the nation over All India Radio and doordarshan [television], said that the present central government had three tasks before it: Restoring democracy, providing full employment in 10 years, and bringing about complete integration of the minds of all people. Most of the freedoms had been restored and the aberrations in the constitution had been largely removed. Freedoms of the individual, the press and the judiciary had been restored in such a manner that no one in future could take them away. He however regretted that there were still one or two items which the government could not do for want of a majority in the Rajya Sabha.

The prime minister referred to the excesses during the emergency and said that enquiries into them were necessary to ensure that no one in future played with the lives of people and the constitution. These were done not out of vindictiveness but in the interest of justice and to protect the future of the people. Desai said the special courts that were proposed to be set up were also in the interest of the persons involved so that the hearing is completed soon and they are not kept in suspense.

The prime minister spoke of his government's performance on the economic front and said that the country had produced enough foodgrains for its consumption and was now exporting to some friendly countries. The price rise had been checked and essential commodities were freely available. Desai said priority had been given to the development of rural areas so that the rural life, which covered 80 percent of our people, was enriched. Special attention was being given to agriculture and small and cottage industries which generated more employment opportunities. Banks had been asked to provide financial assistance and already 55,000 villages had been adopted by them.

The prime minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to provide drinking water to 116,000 villages within the next 5 years. Already 18,000 villages were provided with this facility in the very first year of his forming the government. Desai said a programme has been undertaken to ensure that adequate housing was obtainable in urban and rural areas. The government was providing house sites to all those who have none. The government wanted to carry the message of family planning to every home so that the people took to it voluntarily. The programme would be carried on with the cooperation of people. The prime minister said a programme has also been taken in hand to remove adult illiteracy in the next 6 to 7 years.

The prime minister referred to certain aberrations which were a blot on our society. These were untouchability, oppression of Harijans, the question of minority and communal troubles, and neglect of tribal areas. These questions were being tackled now with greater vigour and various commissions had been set up in this regard.

In international relations the prestige and reputation of India had gone up as never before because of its policy of nonalignment. Relations with neighbours were much better than at any time before. Thanking the people for their cooperation, the prime minister reminded them that "the strength of the country lies in the strength of every citizen in his freedom from fear and that has to be done through democracy and the democratic way of life which we are trying to constantly strengthen."

MEETINGS TO BE HELD TO REMOVE DOUBTS ABOUT RELIGION BILL

BK031155 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The Arya Samaj will organize a series of meetings inviting representatives from all religions and sects to remove the misgivings about the Freedom of Religion Bill 1978, now before the Lok Sabha. Swami Agnivesh, a Janata MIA from Haryana, said this to newsmen in Calcutta at the end of a 3-day state level conference of Arya Samaj.

NEPAL

AIRCRAFT CARRYING KOIRALA BLOCKED FROM LANDING

BK020340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The former Nepalese Prime Minister, Mr B.P. Koirala, was prevented from returning to his home town, Biratnagar, in southeast Nepal, by demonstrators on Saturday [31 March].

The aircraft carrying Mr Korala was unable to land at Biratnagar as progovernment groups occupied the airport. The national news agency reports from Katmandu that this is the second time that Mr Koirala has been prevented from traveling outside Katmandu since his release from jail 14 months ago.

PAKISTAN

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON BHUTTO HANGING

BK040613 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 4 Apr 79 BK

[Text] A pressnote was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Islamabad today which states that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was hanged at Rawalpindi district jail at 2 a.m. at dawn [as heard] today following the Lahore High Court's verdict in the Nawab Mohammad Ahmad Khan murder case and the subsequent rejection of his appeal by Supreme Court.

Earlier, the president had rejected the appeals for clemency filed on his behalf after normal procedures. His body was flown by a special aircraft from Rawalpindi and was handed over to relatives of the deceased. The relatives, after Janaza prayers, buried him at his ancestral burial ground at Larkana at 1000. He was buried according to the wishes of his relatives.

Among the relatives who attended the funeral were his two uncles, Nawab Nabi Bukhsh Bhutto and Sardar Mir Bukhsh Bhutto, his first wife Siri Amir Begum, and friends and the citizens of the area.

Mrs Nusrat and Miss Benazir Bhutto, who were apprised of the rejection of clemency appeal, had a last meeting with Mr Zulfiqar Ali in the Rawalpindi District Jail for 3 hours yesterday. Among others who visited him at the jail in the last few days were his first wife.

It will be recalled that a charge of murder was made against Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in Lahore High Court with a full bench consisting of five judges, according to the normal procedures of the country. The court, after 5 months of hearing the case, unanimously declared him guilty and handed down a death sentence on 18 March 1978.

Meanwhile, he appealed to the Supreme Court against the court's verdict. This hearing continued for 7 months, and on 6 February 1979 the death sentence was retained, upholding the Lahore High Court verdict.

After the rejection of this appeal, a review appeal was filed by Bhutto, which was also rejected by a full bench of the Supreme Court on 24 March 1979.

HAQ PROPOSES TO DESAI NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN S. ASIA

BK010849 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has proposed that Pakistan, India and other states in South Asia should agree to make a joint declaration renouncing the manufacture or acquisition of nuclear weapons.

A Foreign Office spokesman, replying to newsmen's questions, said in Islamabad this afternoon that the proposal had been made in a letter to the Indian prime minister, Mr Desai, early this month. The president, while making the proposal, had emphasized that such a declaration would of course have an international status and be binding on the present as well as the future governments.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that the president's letter was in reply to a letter to him by the Indian prime minister in the middle of February expressing concern about what he called Pakistan's efforts to acquire nuclear explosion capability.

The president, in his reply, emphasized that Indian apprehensions were based on misleading reports about Pakistan's nuclear program. The president emphasized that the program was entirely geared for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The purpose of Pakistan's peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The purpose of Pakistan's peaceful program was to meet the country's energy requirements and to insure availability of technology, as inevitably the conventional fuel supply shall run short.

The president also pointed out that Pakistan had no intention to acquire or develop nuclear weapons and it accepted (?cast-iron) international safeguards to dispel any doubt about its nuclear program and its commitment of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The president in his letter referred to various initiatives taken by Pakistan to curb nuclear proliferation. In this context, he mentioned the security assurances to non-nuclear states and the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone in South Asia.

The president pointed out that regrettably the progress in this field had been impeded by India's opposition to Pakistan's initiatives. He also pointed out that India had an entire fuel cycle which was outside any safeguard and which means that the future Indian governments had the option to use nuclear capability for military purposes at any time they chose.

The president urged the Indian prime minister to lend his government's support to the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia and to accept international inspection or bilateral inspection on a reciprocal basis for all nuclear facilities in India and Pakistan. He also suggested that India could make a lofty contribution toward the curbing of nuclear proliferation by accepting full-scale safeguards for nuclear facilities or by acceding to the nonproliferation treaty. He assured Prime Minister Desai that Pakistan would promptly follow India's lead in this matter.

HAQ ENVOY TO USSR HANDS MESSAGE TO KOSYGIN

BK040554 Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0115 GMT 4 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mohammed Yaqub Khan, called on the Soviet premier, Mr Kosygin, in Moscow yesterday and handed him a message from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The Soviet news agency TASS reported that they also held talks on matters of mutual interest.

Earlier, in an interview with MOSCOW NEWS , a Soviet weekly, the Pakistani ambassador described the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries in various fields including trade, culture and education. In the economic field, Pakistan is receiving Soviet assistance for its important industrial projects. The ambassador said that in recent years the mutual friendly relations have strengthened in various fields. Relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union are based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, he added.

KASHMIR PRESIDENT CHALLENGES STATEMENT BY VAJPAYEE

BK040750 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Apr 79 BK

[Text] The president of Azad Kashmir, Brig Mohammad Hayat Khan, has said in Muzaffarabad that according to all standards of justice and the principles of the partition of the country, the entire province of Jammu and Kashmir, with its overwhelming Muslim majority, is a part of Pakistan, and this fact cannot be challenged.

Commenting on a recent newspaper interview of the Indian external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he said that India, as a party, agreed at the United Nations that she was under obligation to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, and peace and stability demand that India honor its commitment so that the situation in the region could return to normal.